CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
8
ABI UMEDA

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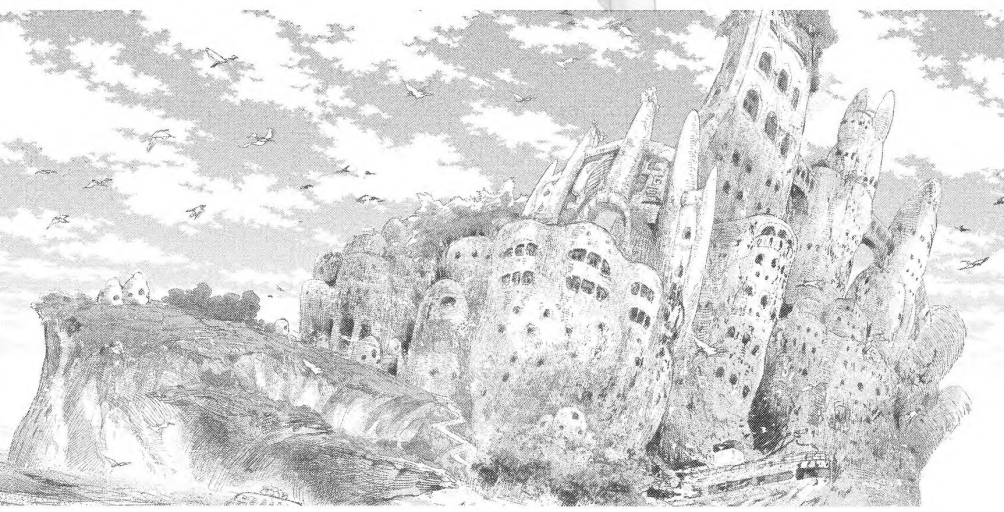
Story and Art by Abi Umeda

Volume

8



Glossary of the Sea of Sand

The Mud Whale	A huge, drifting island-ship. Those in the empire who resisted giving up their emotions were exiled here, along with all their descendants.
Thymia	Telekinetic power derived from emotions.
The Marked	The 90 percent of the Mud Whale population who are thymia users. They are all short-lived.
The Unmarked	The members of the Mud Whale population who cannot use thymia. Unlike the Marked, they are long-lived.
Nous	A unique organism that obtains energy from peoples' emotions and gives people the power of thymia in return.
Nous Fálaina	A Nous that dwells deep within the Belly of the Mud Whale. Unlike other Nouses, it consumes the life force of humans rather than their emotions.
The Allied Empire	A large nation on the Sea of Sand that controls its citizenry through the Nouses and their absorption of emotions.
Daímonas	A legend from the empire. A being said to be able to destroy a Nous.

A Record of the Mud Whale and the Sea of Sand

Year 93 of the Sand Exile.

The Mud Whale drifts endlessly through the Sea of Sand, home to about 500 people who know nothing of the outside world.

Then the empire suddenly attacks the Mud Whale, and its normally peaceful people are only just able to win the battle. Chakuro, Lykos and the rest of the survivors soon have another encounter—with Sir Rochalízo and his crew. To avoid coming under further attack from the empire, the Mud Whale makes for Amonlogia, Rochalízo's homeland.

As the Mud Whale travels though the Sea of Sand, a vision of the past prompts Chakuro and his friends to discover Midēn's Room, a chamber hidden deep inside the island.

There, Chakuro finds records of a boy named Midēn, who was born on the Mud Whale. Even though others called him daímonas, he dreamed of freedom...

"The Mud Whale was our entire world."

On the Mud Whale

Ouni
(Marked, 16 years old)

A very powerful thymia user. He has the power to destroy Nouses and is called the daímonas by the Allied Empire.

Lykos
(Marked, 14 years old)

A girl from the Allied Empire who comes aboard the Mud Whale. She has a connection with Chakuro and others on the Mud Whale and decides to stay with them.

Chakuro
(Marked, 14 years old)

The young archivist of the Mud Whale. He has hypergraphia, a disorder that compels him to record everything.

Aíma
(???)

She appears to Chakuro after Neri disappears. She gives Chakuro the Mud Whale's rudder.

Neri
(???)

A girl with superhuman powers who disappears when Aíma appears.

Suou
(Unmarked, 17 years old)

The new mayor of the Mud Whale. He has decided to find a way to escape the Mud Whale in order to save the Marked.

Rochalízo
(???, 17 years old)

He is the son of the duke of Amonlogia, of the United Kingdom of Suidelasia. He is leading the Mud Whale to his country.

Orca

A high-ranking official from the Allied Empire and Lykos's brother. His battleship Skyros was sunk when he attacked the Mud Whale, but he managed to evade punishment.

Midēn
(???)

The daímonas born to Dȳo, first mayor of the Mud Whale. He looks like Ouni.

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Chapter 29
An Inconvenient World

The Mud Whale drifts endlessly through the Sea of Sand, home to about 500 people.
I, Chakuro, the Mud Whale archivist, met the mysterious Lykos...
...and through her, we were all exposed to the unknowns of the outside world.
We waged a sad war with Lykos's homeland, which wanted to destroy us.
Those of us who survived were given hope by the arrival of new visitors...
...and we decided to point the Mud Whale's rudder towards Amonlogia and a new home.
But our journey would not proceed peacefully.

Ouni suddenly collapsed after the encounter with the phantom Mud Whale...
...and the Eldest told us to find Midén's Room in order to rescue Ouni from the brink of death.
Once inside Midén's Room, we saw that the walls were completely covered with records...
...explaining the birth of the daïmonas Midén so long ago...
...and of his inescapable fate...

OHH, YOU'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS!
ELDEST...!
MI... DÉN...

IT'S NOT MIDÉN'S FAULT.
MIDÉN...
I'M SO GLAD, ELDEST.

I WONDER WHAT HE'S REMEMBERING?
MIDÉN?
HE'S... HE'S... JUST...

MIDÉN!!
STOP ...
MIDÉN ...
ZSSSH

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING!
WAAAAH!
GYAA!
DAMN... WE UNDERESTIMATED THE DAIMONAS!
I-IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'LL ALL BE KILLED.
WAAA
IS THIS THE WORLD DYO WANTED?
WAAH
IS HAVING FEELINGS WRONG AFTER ALL?
WAAH
WAS THE EMPIRE RIGHT?
AHN!
HYU
HYU
SLISH

!
ROLL ROLL
...
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS YET, MIDÉN.
THAT'S RIGHT...
WHEN I WAS STILL LITTLE...
...THIS...
...WAS GIVEN TO ME BY A JESTER IN THE OLD COUNTRY.

HE WAS ACTUALLY THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF THEIR KING.
...AND HE HAD LOST HIS ENTIRE FAMILY.
HIS HOMELAND HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY THE EMPIRE...
AND...
HE WANDERED AND EVENTUALLY MADE IT TO OUR COUNTRY.
BUT SINCE JESTERS WERE SEEN AS UNWORTHY, HE WAS NOT KILLED.
...LAUGH.
...HE MADE IT HIS LIFE'S WORK TO MAKE THE PEOPLE WHO HAD STOLEN HIS HAPPINESS ...
HIS INFLUENCE IS WHY I VOWED TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE WOULD HAVE FEELINGS...
...AND LIVE IN LAUGHTER.

...TO MAKE THE PEOPLE HE SHOULD HAVE CURSED LAUGH?
HOW WAS HE STILL ABLE...
...COULDN'T I BE LIKE HIM?
AND WHY...
...MIND.
NEVER...
MIDÉN...

KILL HER!
GO AFTER HER...
SHE'S GET-TING AWAY!
WAIT.
I'LL SHOOT HER!
CR
FE
SHE'S NOT RUNNING AWAY...
I HEAR LAUGH-TER...
WHAT IS SHE DOING ?!
THE CLAY DOLL ISN'T FOLLOW-ING US.
GREAT!

SHE'S... DANCING?
MAYBE ALL I WANTED WAS A LITTLE THING.
WHAT DID I WANT?
...WAS HERE ALL ALONG.
THE WORLD THE JESTER SHOWED ME...
THAT'S RIGHT...
...THIS WAS A PARADISE ALREADY.
AS LONG AS HE WAS HERE WITH ME...

THAT'S ALL I WANTED.
I WANTED TO LAUGH WITH EKATÓ FOREVER.
...HOW CAN I EVER HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING?
IF I COULDN'T EVEN PROTECT HIM...
EKATÓ!
DASH
NEVER MIND.

LOOK ...!
OH.
I CAN BE FREE NOW...
...
BUT ...
...I'M SURE I'LL MISS THIS DIFFICULT WORLD SOMEDAY.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS...
...WILL YOU BE BY MY SIDE?
I'M SORRY...
...MIDÉN.

...he was singing.
When I found Midén...
Standing in a pool of blood on the sand...
It was the lullaby Dýo used to sing to the kids on the island.
...singing in the sunlight.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...
MIDÉN...

WOOO
CRNCH
ARE YOU...
... PLANNING TO TAKE ME DOWN?
YOU, AN UNMARKED WHO CAN'T USE THYMIA?
MURDER-ER...
DAIMONAS.
HUU
COME GET ME...!
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN AFTER ALL...
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?!

MIDEN...
RUN, BYAKU-ROKU!
DON'T...
DASH
MIDEN!!

YANK
GET AWAY FROM HIM...!
MI-
FWSH
FWSH
THNK
THNK
THNK
WHY?
MIDÉN...
FWMP

YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME, RIGHT?
YOU DID THIS ON PURPOSE.
I WAS...
...ONLY FOLLOWING MOTHER'S ORDERS.
MOTHER SAID...
..."PROTECT THIS ISLAND."
MOTHER SAID...
BYAKUROKU...
BUT... SH-SHE... FOUND... OUT...
...THAT THE TWO OF US COULDN'T PROTECT IT.

YOU WILL... BECOME A GOOD LEADER... AND PROTECT THIS ISLAND.
TO PROTECT THIS ISLAND...
...YOU...
...HAD TO LIVE. NOT ME.
MIDÉN...
...NO.

Midén and Dýo scattered under sunny skies.
CHAKURO ...
SWIP
Nine years later...

Midén and Dýo scattered under sunny skies.
CHAKURO ...
SWIP
Nine years later...

...I became the third mayor of the Mud Whale.
Never again could such a tragedy be allowed to happen.
A kind, gentle person would always be chosen as the mayor. One who had been educated from childhood by an older Unmarked.
And the frightening truth of the past would be hidden from the Marked.
However sad it may be, ignorance allows you to lead a peaceful life...
...even if the outside world laughs at you.

We just had to avoid sasa, which pours forth from emotions.
According to the records in Dýo's room, sasa created the daimonas.
To keep sasa from spilling out from our finger-nails...
...we began to clasp our fingers together to close the space between flesh and nails during times of strong emotion.
That is the origin of the hand-clasping tradition.
I will no longer come to this room.
Just as Midén and Dýo wished...
...I too hope for a happy future for this island.
-Byakuroku

IT TALKS ABOUT FÁLAINA AND THE LIFE SPAN OF THE MARKED.
LYKOS...
GASP
YEAH.
WE NEED TO LEAVE THIS ROOM FOR NOW.
...WE CAN'T LET GINSHU AND THE OTHERS FIND OUT.
CHAKURO ...
THEY'RE SCATTERED, SO I'M GATHERING THEM UP.
MAYOR TAISHA WROTE THESE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KUCCHI?
HEY...
I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING ABOUT OUNI IN THOSE RECORDS...
BUT...
...MAYBE OUNI IS...

EVEN I CAN TELL, AND I CAN'T READ.
MAYOR TAISHA DOESN'T HAVE SLOPPY HAND-WRITING LIKE THIS.
THESE ARE COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE MAYOR'S DIARIES.
I-I DON'T THINK SO.
MAYBE SHE COULDN'T SEE PROPERLY... YEAH, THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
SHE WASN'T HERSELF...
NO, THE WRITING AND THE SENTENCE STRUCTURE IS THE SAME.
HUH?
GLANCE
KUCCHI, YOU'RE REALLY...
YOU CAN TELL THAT, KUCCHI?
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT— IT'S MAYOR TAISHA'S WRITING.
LEAVE ME ALONE!
... Creepy.

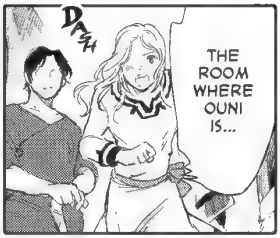
WHOA, WHAT IS THIS?
CHAKURO, THIS IS BAD...!
THE WALLS ARE MELTING!
WE CAN'T REPEAT SUCH A MISTAKE...
THIS TIME... THIS TIME...
AHH...

...
...SAVE HIM...
BANG
WHAT'S GOING ON?
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
A RIOT?
RO-CHALÍZO ...
THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A RIOT IN THE SPECIALIST TOWER.
I DON'T KNOW!
GEEZ, IT'S ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER HERE...
I MAY HAVE TO RECONSID-ER LETTING YOU INTO AMONLOGIA.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO INSIDE.
IT'S COMING FROM A FEW DOORS AWAY FROM MY ROOM.
CRSH

SHFF
SHFF
MASOH, SHINONO.

COMMANDING
...FOR THE VIGILANTE CORPS...
WELL, I GUESS YOU CAN'T WAIT.
WAIT...


DASH
THE ROOM WHERE OUNI IS...

SUOU...
SHA
...I'LL GO FIR-

SLAM
BANG

SERIOUSLY, WHY ISN'T THE VIGILANTE CORPS HERE?
THE COMMANDER IS REALLY SLACKING OFF THESE DAYS.
BANG
BANG

!

SOME-ONE... STOP HIM!
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH OUNI.

...ARE YOU HURT?
KICHA ...

CRASH
NO, ROCHALÍZO!
DASH
MASOH ...
...CALM DOWN.
HEY, OUNI...
HYUU
HE'S SINGING ...
HE'S OBVIOUSLY INSANE.

ROCHALÍZO, GET KICHA AND SHINONO OUT OF HERE!
I CAN'T AIM.
GET OUT OF THE WAY, SUOU!
DON'T... COME...
OUNI, YOU'RE OKAY.
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE OKAY. SO CALM DOWN.
YOU'RE OKAY.
CRASH
...CAN SLICE THINGS LIKE THIS?
WHAT KIND OF THYMIA...
SPLISH

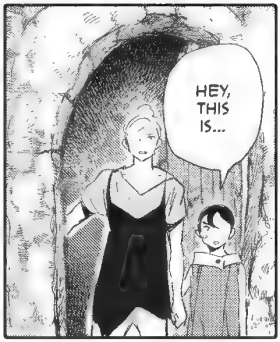
KUCCHI, THIS IS BAD. LET'S GO!
LET'S GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME.
THE KEY IS SHINING.
GASP

!
HYUU
DAMN ...
GET AWAY, SUOU!
OUN!!
DON'T... COME... NEAR... ME.
?

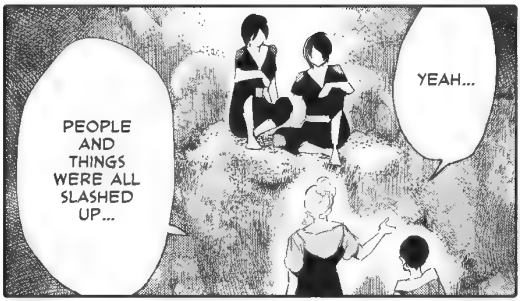
WHOOSH
HE CALMED DOWN??
ARE YOU AN ANIMAL TAMER?
SUOU, WERE YOUR FINGERS CUT?
NO.

...ALL RIGHT NOW.
YOU'RE ...
SLUR...
WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE CUTS?
...?
...
OHH...
OH!
KICHA.

HE JUST THREW UP.
KICHA, HE'S FINE...
OUNI...


HEY, THIS IS...

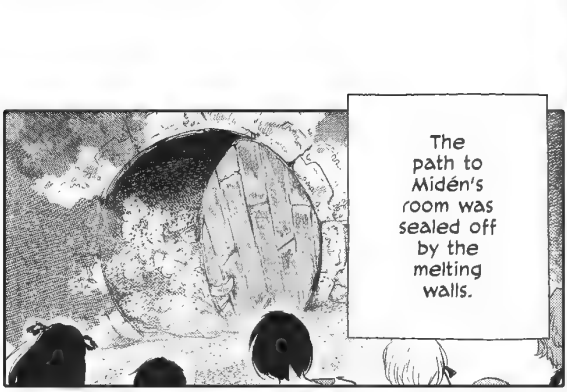
...

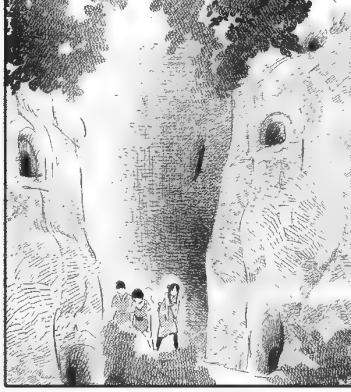

PEOPLE AND THINGS WERE ALL SLASHED UP...
YEAH...

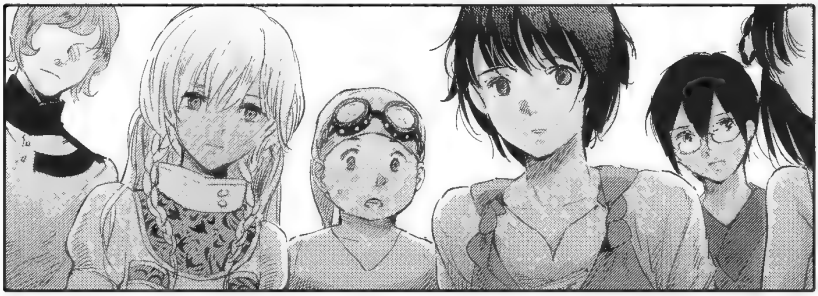
THE ENEMY SOLDIERS' ARMS AND UNIFORMS WERE BLOWN OFF AND STREWN ABOUT.
SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED ON SKYROS.

OUNI'S POWERS HAVE GONE NUTS?

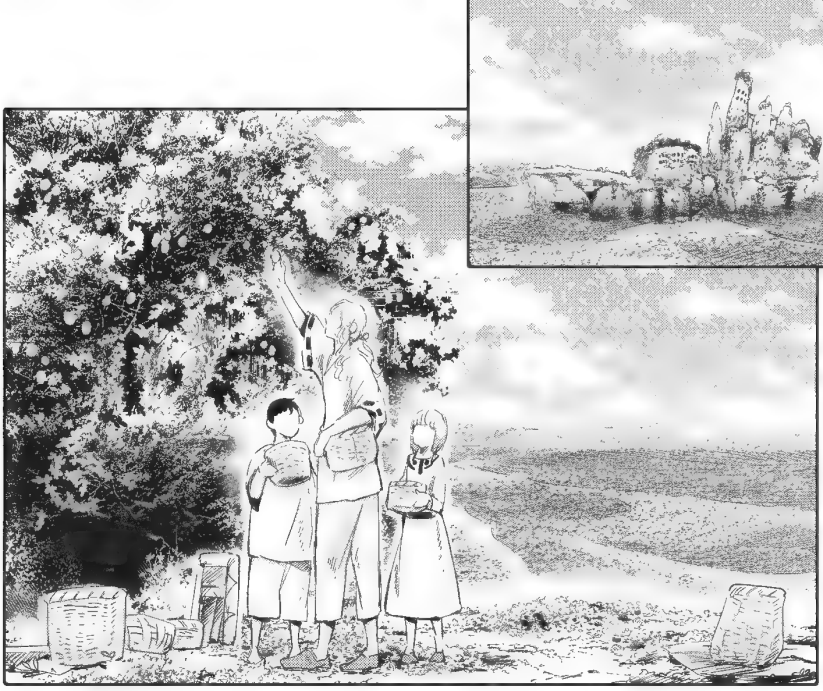
HE TOOK DOWN THAT HUGE BATTLESHIP...
I THOUGHT IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN HERE, SO, YOU KNOW...
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU WERE ON THE ASSAULT TEAM.
THAT'S IT. I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW.
LATER.
WAIT.
JOIN US.
WE'LL GIVE YOU A GREAT POSITION.


The path to Midén's room was sealed off by the melting walls.





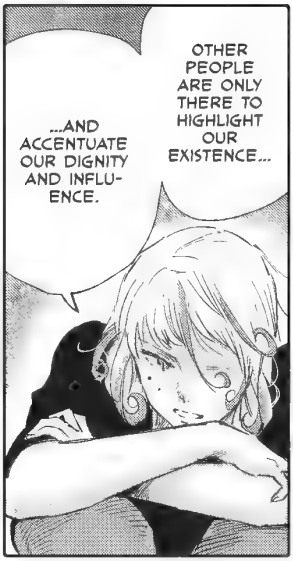
Chapter 30
A Discovery

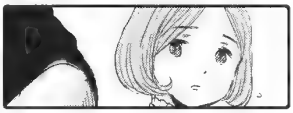

YOU'RE INJURED.
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THE HARVESTING TO EVERYONE ELSE?
SUOU.
...SO GO BACK AND STAY WITH MASOH.
I'M FINE...

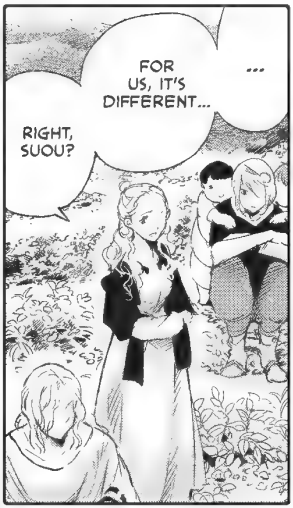
YOU'RE NOT INJURED, ROCHALÍZO?
NO.
I'M FINE, BEAUTIFUL.
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
WHY DID SUOU DEFEND THAT RUFFIAN?
ISN'T HE THE ONE WHO IS ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE?
...
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE MUD WHALE.
ROCHI!
...?! H-HEY, SHOO, SHOO, GET AWAY!
?!
GLOM
AREN'T THE PEOPLE OF YOUR COUNTRY...
...PRECIOUS TO YOU?
...

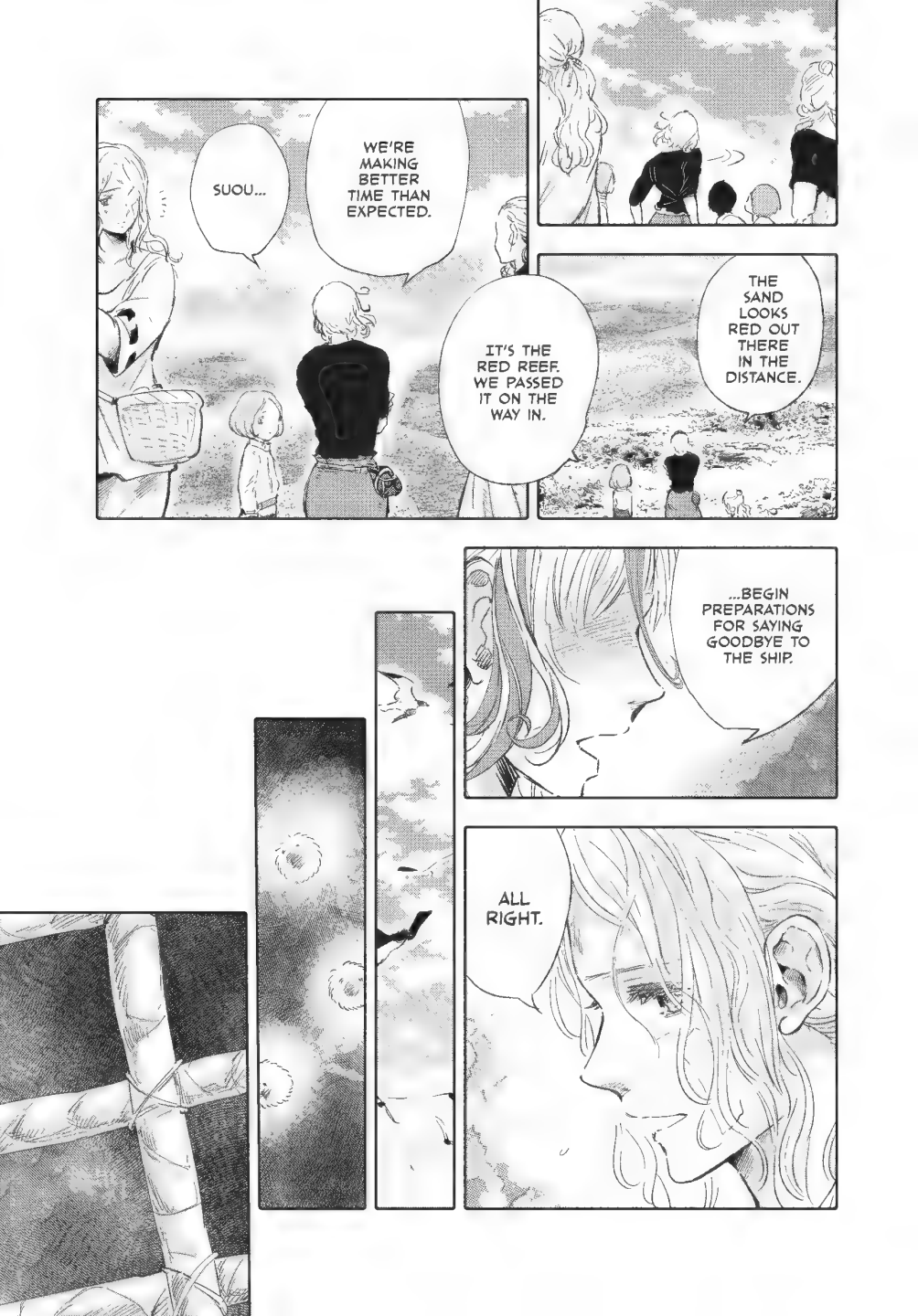
ALL THE PEOPLE ON THIS SHIP...
...ARE FRIENDS WE WANT TO SHARE A HAPPY FUTURE WITH.
YOU'VE BECOME ONE OF OUR DEAR FRIENDS.

ROCHALÍZO ...
I HOPE YOU WILL JOURNEY WITH US.


OTHER PEOPLE ARE ONLY THERE TO HIGHLIGHT OUR EXISTENCE...
...AND ACCENTUATE OUR DIGNITY AND INFLU-ENCE.




...
FOR US, IT'S DIFFERENT...
RIGHT, SUOU?


SUOU...
WE'RE MAKING BETTER TIME THAN EXPECTED.
IT'S THE RED REEF. WE PASSED IT ON THE WAY IN.
THE SAND LOOKS RED OUT THERE IN THE DISTANCE.
...BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR SAYING GOODBYE TO THE SHIP.
ALL RIGHT.

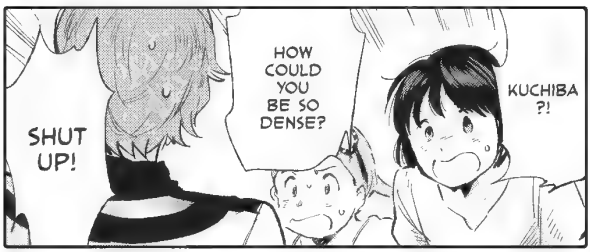
OUNI'S IN THE BELLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.
WHAT DID HE DO?
OH REALLY?
HE HAD A FIGHT WITH KICHA AND INJURED HER, AND HE EVEN HURT MAYOR SUOU WHEN HE STEPPED IN TO STOP THEM.
HE USED THYMIA TO HURT THEM.
RE-ALLY?
THAT'S TER-RIBLE.
IS MAYOR SUOU OKAY?
OUNI HURT MAYOR SUOU...?
BUT THEY'VE BEEN SUCH GOOD BUDDIES LATELY!
WA-AAA!

...QUIT BELIEVING EVERYTHING YOU HEAR!
IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT WITH YOUR OWN EYEBALLS...
EEEK!
NG
HEY!
YOU SHOULD CALM-
THUNK
GIN-SHU.
...
OW...
CHAKKI AND THE OTHERS...
...SAID THAT MIDEN'S ROOM WAS A SECRET...
I CAN KEEP A SECRET.

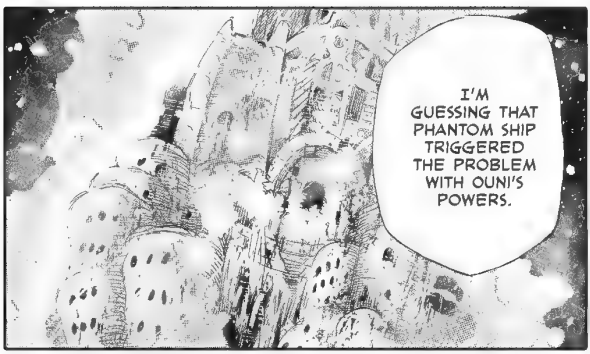
SUOU ASKED THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS NOT TO PUNISH OUNI...
...BUT THEY SENT HIM TO THE BELLY ANYWAY.

SHINONO AND THE OTHERS TRIED TO KEEP OUNI'S RUNAWAY THYMIA INCIDENT UNDER WRAPS...
...BUT BEFORE WE KNEW IT, THE RUMORS HAD SPREAD.

BUT THAT'S LIKE CONFIRMING THE RUMORS...
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THEM?
WELL ...


KUCHIBA ?!
HOW COULD YOU BE SO DENSE?
SHUT UP!

I SUGGESTED THE BELLY.


I'M GUESSING THAT PHANTOM SHIP TRIGGERED THE PROBLEM WITH OUNI'S POWERS.

YOU KNOW, IT.
SO UNTIL WE'VE FIGURED IT OUT, IT'S BETTER TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE CITIZENS.
IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS AGAIN, THINGS WILL GET EVEN WORSE FOR OUNI...
BUT NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE.
WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH MY WORK, I'LL DECIPHER THE RECORDS FROM MAYOR TAISHA THAT I BROUGHT BACK.
YOU MEAN MIDÉN AND OUNI.
...
OKAY, SO CHAKURO READ IN THE RECORDS IN MIDÉN'S ROOM...
...THAT IN THE PAST, A DAÍMONAS NAMED MIDÉN WAS BORN ON THE MUD WHALE...
...AND IN THE END, HIS POWERS WENT OUT OF CONTROL...
...AND HE WAS KILLED.
YEAH.
We need to keep the fact that Fálaina and the daímonas are consuming the lives of the Marked from Nezu and the others.

IN THE EMPIRE, THE DAÍMONAS OF FÁLAINA...
...IS A FEARSOME CHARACTER FROM A FAIRY TALE.
BUT THE FIRST MAYOR OF FÁLAI... THE MUD WHALE, CREATED ONE.

A DAÍMONAS CAN USE THYMIA IN A DIFFERENT, MORE POWERFUL WAY THAN WE CAN...
THAT'S WHY MIDÉN TERRIFIED THE OLD MUD WHALE.

AND YOU THINK IT'S THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED TO OUNI'S POWERS ON SKYROS...
...AND WHAT JUST HAPPENED IN THE MEDICAL ROOM.
DOES THAT MAKE OUNI...
...A DAÍMO...?
WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET...
WE NEED MORE INFOR-MATION ON OUNI.

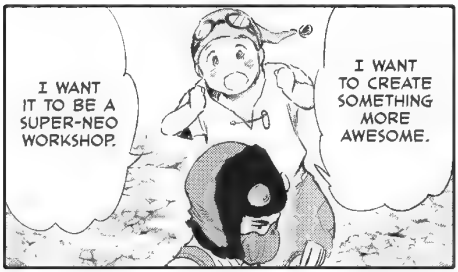
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S RESEARCH THIS PROPERLY AND PROVE OUNI ISN'T A DAÍMONAS.
LIKE ABOUT HIS FAMILY...
JOLT
MASTER YANO!!
OH!
OH, HOLD UP MASTER!
THAT'S RIGHT...
MASTER ??
MASTER ...!!
...SO LATELY I'VE BEEN CHASING HIM.
...EVENTUALLY HE MIGHT TEACH ME THE SECRET OF THE AMONLOGIAN HOURGLASS POWER...
I FIGURE IF I STICK TO MASTER YANO'S SIDE...

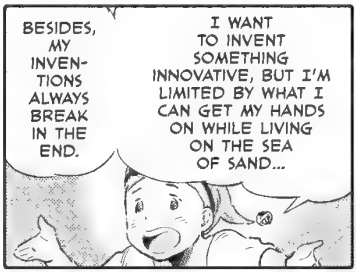
NOT PARTICU-LARLY.
...
DON'T YOU NEED TO GO, RO?
...THEN HE'S MADE OF LIFE FORCE FROM THE MARKED, RIGHT?
IF OUNI IS A DAIMONAS ...
BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...
I KNOW THAT THE MUD WHALE SUCKS THE LIFE OUT OF THE MARKED.
I READ THE RECORDS ON THE WALL.
YUP, UH-HUH...
WHEN DID YOU HAVE TIME?
RO, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
THEN ...
...

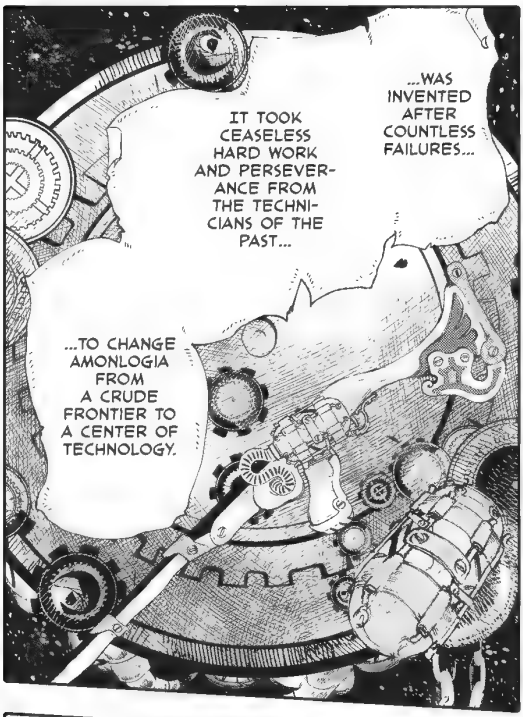
...BUT THEN I FELT BETTER KNOWING WHY THE UNMARKED ARE RUSHING US TO AMONLOGIA.
YEAH, MY HEAD REELED FOR A SECOND...
DID IT COME AS A SHOCK, RO?
ULP
YOU MUST HAVE CRIED, CHAKURO.
...YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH.
RO...
...AND BESIDES, HE'S PRETTY FRAGILE, SO I DON'T WANT HIM TO WORRY.
HE HAS A BIG MOUTH...
HE DOESN'T.
DOES NEZU KNOW?
YOU'RE VERY KIND.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE NEED TO LOOK INTO IT CAREFULLY.
...ISN'T SOMETHING WE CAN MENTION TO ANYONE, INCLUDING OUNI.
ANYWAY, WHETHER OR NOT OUNI IS A DAIMONAS...
?
IF OUNI IS A DAIMONAS...
...THESE BIRDS SEEM SO FAMILIAR.
SOME-HOW...

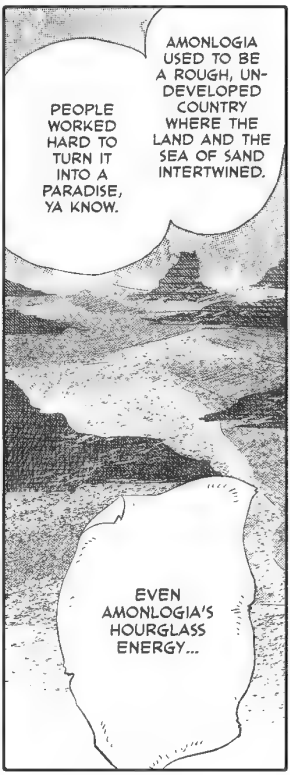
PLEASE GUIDE THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND TO A FREE SKY.
I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOU, YA KNOW.
HEY, WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH?
I CAN'T PROMISE THAT...
...MASTER YANO?
THEN WILL YOU MAKE ME YOUR DISCIPLE WHEN WE GET TO AMONLOGIA...
I DON'T WANT TO DO THE SAME THING ANYMORE.
WELL, NEVER MIND...
OH, I LEFT HIM BEHIND.
HUH?
YOU MEAN RO?

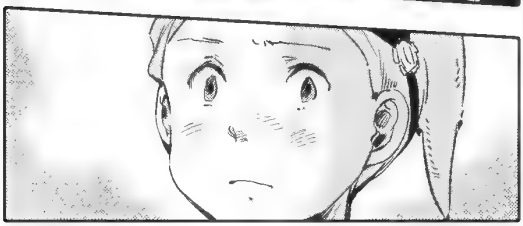

I WANT IT TO BE A SUPER-NEO WORKSHOP.
I WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING MORE AWESOME.


BESIDES, MY INVEN-TIONS ALWAYS BREAK IN THE END.
I WANT TO INVENT SOMETHING INNOVATIVE, BUT I'M LIMITED BY WHAT I CAN GET MY HANDS ON WHILE LIVING ON THE SEA OF SAND...


IT TOOK CEASELESS HARD WORK AND PERSEVER-ANCE FROM THE TECHNI-CIANS OF THE PAST...
...WAS INVENTED AFTER COUNTLESS FAILURES...
...TO CHANGE AMONLOGIA FROM A CRUDE FRONTIER TO A CENTER OF TECHNOLOGY.

...


AMONLOGIA USED TO BE A ROUGH, UN-DEVELOPED COUNTRY WHERE THE LAND AND THE SEA OF SAND INTERTWINED.
PEOPLE WORKED HARD TO TURN IT INTO A PARADISE, YA KNOW.
EVEN AMONLOGIA'S HOURGLASS ENERGY...



MY NAME ISN'T YANO, YA KNOW.
YOU'RE SO STINGY, YANO.
IS IT BAD THAT I WANT TO LEARN NEW TECH-NIQUES?
HMPH
ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE NOT TRYING?
BOMF
... BECAUSE IT'S AN AMONLO-GIAN SECRET.
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW IT WORKS...
TOWN
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE ONE.
It's not Yano...
THANK YOU MASTER YANO!
TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF.

HEEY!
HUH?
SORRY...
...NEZU.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

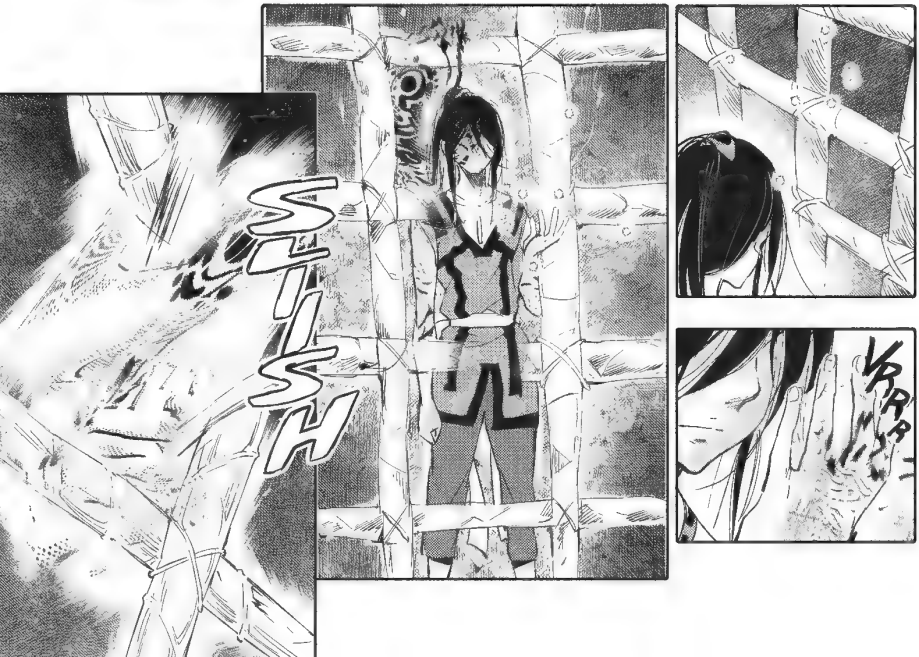
ALL OUR INVENTIONS! OUR COLLECTION OF RELICS!
HYUU
WHAT...
CRASH

THE TWINS?
W-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
IF THEY FIND OUT, YOU'RE GETTING SENT TO THE BELLY.
DO YOU THINK WE'RE FOLLOWING RULES MADE UP BY THE UNMARKED?
UHHN...
OH NO...
FWAA
CRASH
AAAGH!
WHAT WERE YOU ALL DOING THE OTHER DAY BY THE KAMUTA HEDGE?
I DON'T KNOW.
...LOOKING INTO OUNI?
AREN'T YOU...
GRAB

WE'LL BREAK YOUR PAL TOO.
OW...
IF YOU DON'T TALK, THIS GARBAGE WON'T BE THE ONLY THING THAT GETS BROKEN.
SMUSH
...YOU MEAN... RO?
...
Y...
...AND THE OTHER ONE'S BEEN YOUR FRIEND SINCE YOU WERE BRATS.
HE'S THE REBELLIOUS HEAD OF THE MOLES...
YOU'RE NOT REALLY FRIENDS WITH OUNI, ARE YOU?
WHO'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

HEY...
...DON'T FALL ASLEEP LEANING ON ME.
MY ROOM'S BEEN RANSACKED.
THE RECORDS I HID IN THE BACK!
HUH?
DAMN ...
...THEY'RE GONE.
WHY?

ONLY CHAKURO AND THAT GROUP KNOW...
...ABOUT MIDÉN'S ROOM AND THE RECORDS I BROUGHT BACK.


SLISH
KRRR

I CAN USE MY THYMIA EVEN THOUGH I'M IN THE BELLY.
CREE
...
WAS THE LOCK WAS BROKEN?
SL
HEY, GO BACK.
HEY, HOW DID YOU GET OUT?
OUN!?
ISH

CREE
CREE
CREE
HUH?
CREE
CREE
THE WALL...? WHAT...?
THYMIA? HOW?!
I'M GETTING BETTER...
...AT CONTROLLING IT.
WHOA ...
SHU
WHAT IS THIS...?

...WE WERE COMING TO GET YOU.
HEH
HEY...
HEH
GET OUT OF MY WAY.
WE FOUND OUT SOMETHING GOOD, SO WE CAME TO TELL YOU...
...OUNI.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE...

...NOT HUMAN.
THE DESTROYER ARCHIVIST AND HIS FRIENDS...
...WERE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT YOUR ABNORMAL THYMIA AND BEGAN INVESTIGATING.
...
THEY DIDN'T TRUST YOU...
...AFTER ALL...
HEH HEH HEH
THEY WERE PRETENDING TO BE YOUR FRIENDS BUT ALL THE WHILE TRYING TO EXPOSE WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
YOU'RE...

...A NOUS-BORN MONSTER.
THEY VERY KINDLY TOLD US WHAT THEY'D DISCOVERED.
...
I TOLD YOU TO MOVE.
SNFF
THIS LAYS OUT ALL THE FACTS ABOUT YOU BEING A MONSTER.
THEY GAVE THIS TO US TOO...
DO YOU WANT TO SEE?

HMMM.
MAYBE I WANT TO SEE. ♪
MOVE.
TUG
FWISH
!!
COMMANDER ?!

YOU FOUND OUT THAT YOUR FRIEND IS A MONSTER...
...AND THOUGHT YOU COULD MAKE THE MONSTER DO YOUR BIDDING?
YOU'RE SO SILLY.
HEH
HEH
THIS HAS NOTHING ...
...TO DO WITH YOU!
OH, BUT IT DOES.
TMP

WHEN WE GET TO AMONLOGIA, YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT YOU ARE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
I DON'T THINK IT'S A BAD THING TO KNOW BEFORE-HAND.
SAY...
...DO YOU WANT TO SEE THIS?
DON'T TOUCH ME.
KRL
KRL
I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY BODY.
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME...
THIS WON'T STOP.
IF...

...I KEEP GOING LIKE THIS...
...I'LL DESTROY THE ISLAND.

HEH HEH
HEH
HA HA!

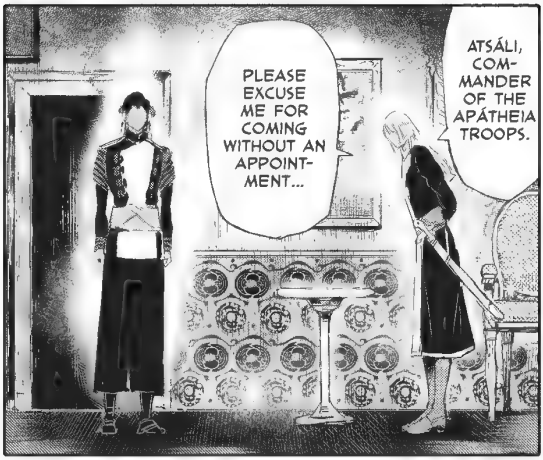
A LETTER FROM YOUR PARENTS.
COM-MANDER ORCA...
CRASH
...BUT YOU DOZE OFF ALL THE TIME.
YOU ONLY DRINK WATER...
OH DEAR, WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN.
RUSTLE

IT TOOK A WHILE.
I SEE.
OH, AND THE KARCHARÍAS HAS RETURNED FROM DUTY.
OH, AND A FEW OTHER THINGS TOO.
BUT NOW I CAN USE KARCHARÍAS...
IF IT HAS AWAKENED...
...THEN THAT MUD BOAT...
...WILL BE THE MOST UNMERCIFUL SHIP IN THE WORLD.

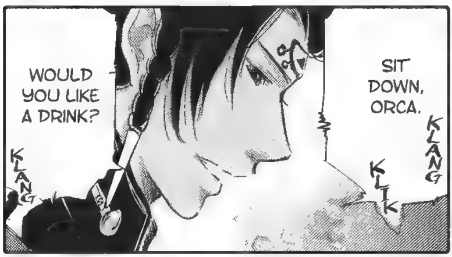
Chapter 31
The Hollow Sound of Bells

While the Mud Whale, the only home we had ever known, was sailing towards our new land of Amonlogia...
...at the other end of the Sea of Sand, in the empire that had pushed us to the depths of despair...
...Lykos's brother, Orca, was moving ahead with his plans to attack us once again.

WHAT DID SHE DO?
MASTER ATSÁLI...
...YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
SHE DID NOT SPEAK TO ME RESPECTFULLY, SO I WAS JUST GIVING HER A WARNING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
KLANG


ATSÁLI, COMMANDER OF THE APÁTHEIA TROOPS.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR COMING WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT...

CLACK
CLACK

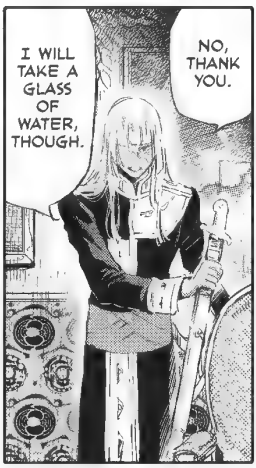

SIT DOWN, ORCA.
KLANG
KLK
WOULD YOU LIKE A DRINK?
KLANG

I HEAR YOU ACCRUED AN AMAZING RECORD OF WINS IN THE EIGHTH SECTOR.
I HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR RETURN.

THIS LOOKS LIKE AN EXPENSIVE CUP...
DID YOUR PARENTS GIVE YOU THIS?

KLANG

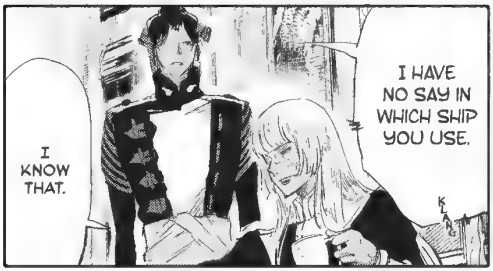
MY MAID IS INJURED, SO I CAN ONLY PROVIDE WATER.
KLANG
KLK
THAT'S CONVENIENT.


NO, THANK YOU.
I WILL TAKE A GLASS OF WATER, THOUGH.

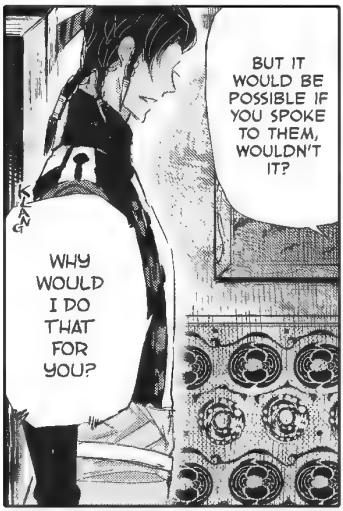
...
SHE'S A SPEEDY ONE.
WAS KARCHARÍAS EASY TO MANEUVER?
THIS SERVES A PURPOSE.
WERE YOU NOT TAUGHT PROPER MANNERS?
KLAG
DO YOU ALWAYS BEHAVE LIKE THIS IN OTHER PEOPLE'S HOMES?
KLAG
I'LL COME DIRECTLY TO THE POINT.
...COM-MANDER ATSÁLI.
YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO BE TAKEN IN BY MY WIT...
THERE IS NO POINT IN KEEPING UP APPEARANCES WITH YOU.

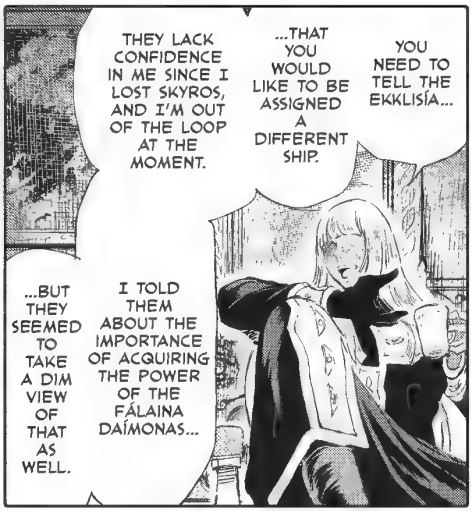
I WANT TO USE IT FOR MY MISSION.
...

FÁLAINA AGAIN?
KLANG


I HAVE NO SAY IN WHICH SHIP YOU USE.
I KNOW THAT.

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO GIVE ME THE BATTLESHIP KARCHARÍAS.


BUT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE IF YOU SPOKE TO THEM, WOULDN'T IT?
KLANG
WHY WOULD I DO THAT FOR YOU?


THEY LACK CONFIDENCE IN ME SINCE I LOST SKYROS, AND I'M OUT OF THE LOOP AT THE MOMENT.
...THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ASSIGNED A DIFFERENT SHIP.
YOU NEED TO TELL THE EKKLISÍA...
I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ACQUIRING THE POWER OF THE FÁLAINA DAÍMONAS...
...BUT THEY SEEMED TO TAKE A DIM VIEW OF THAT AS WELL.

YOUR FAMILY OWNS QUITE A BIT OF LAND IN THE SOUTH.
I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SAME KIND OF APOLÍTHOMA OUR ENEMIES USE WAS DISCOVERED ON YOUR LAND...
...MANY YEARS AGO.
YET ALL THINGS NOUS RELATED ARE SUPPOSED TO BELONG TO THE EMPEROR.
AND WITH APOLÍTHOMA BEING SUCH A SCARCE AND VALUABLE RESOURCE IN THE EMPIRE...
ALSO, BY LAW ONE CAN ONLY DISTRIBUTE SÁRKA UP TO A THIRD-DEGREE KINSMAN...
...BUT I HEAR YOUR FAMILY REGULARLY EXCEEDS THAT.
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN YOUR FAMILY...
KLANG
HOW DARE HE?
HOW PEOPLE CHANGE.
KLANG
YES?
...YET SOMEHOW I'VE MANAGED TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU SPOKE WITH ME?
KLANG
I'VE FORGOT-TEN.

I HEARD YOU HAVE A VERITABLE GOD OF DEATH AMONG YOU HERE.
COM-MANDER ATSÁLI ...
YES, HE'S A MEMBER OF THIS COMPANY.
HE ALWAYS KILLS THE MOST ENEMY SOLDIERS WHEN WE FIGHT.
HIS THYMIA SKILLS ARE OFF THE CHARTS AND HE'S VERY SMART...
HIS COMRADES CALL HIM ORCA, AFTER THE KILLER WHALE.
IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO OR MORE ...
I CLEARLY REMEM-BER THAT.
THAT'S HIM.
HE'S COVERED IN WOUNDS.
HE NEVER SEEMS TO DEFEND HIMSELF, EVEN UNDER DIRECT ATTACK.
HE ALWAYS COMES BACK LOOKING LIKE THAT.
HE'S SMALLER THAN I EXPECT-ED.
NO, IT'S JUST ...

HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN, SO HE SEEMS SMALLER THAN HE IS.
HE IS VERY SKILLED, BUT HE'S ODD.
WHEN HE'S OFF DUTY, HE ONLY SPEAKS TO HIS LITTLE SISTER.
HE'S BEYOND WOMANLY.
HE'S A PRIVATE, AND A CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY OF HIS EMOTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE NOUSES...
...BUT EVEN THAT CAN'T CHANGE WHO A PERSON IS, AT THE CORE.
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE MOVING UP A RANK AND BEING PLACED IN COMMAND OF A SQUAD.
CAN YOU DO IT?
YES.
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
CAN'T YOU SPEAK ANY LOUDER?
WHY DON'T YOU DEFEND YOURSELF?
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

YES.
?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ...
...A FAVOR.
I STILL FEEL FEAR...
... WHEN I KILL THE ENEMY.
CAN ÄNTHROPOS TAKE MORE OF MY FEELINGS?
FINE, I GRANT YOU LEAVE TO GO ON A PILGRIM-AGE.
... DON'T WANT TO...
... KILL.
I DON'T WANT TO KILL.
PLIP
PLIP

...
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR FAMILY.
OR WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR STANDING IF THE FRAUD COMES TO LIGHT.
I WILL SPEAK TO THE EKKLISÍA ...
... ABOUT KAR-CHARÍAS.
KLANG
WON-DER-FUL!
I WASN'T SURE WHAT I WOULD DO IF YOU TOOK YOUR TIME DECIDING.
I'M GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO COME TO A QUICK DECISION.
THUNK
... YOU ...
ORCA ...
A WISE MAN NEVER WAVERS, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
I WILL SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING, COM-MANDER ATSÁLI.
KLANG
?
NOTHING, JUST GO.

AS SOLDIERS RISE IN THE RANKS...
...THEY BECOME A SPECIAL CLASS THAT RECIEVES SÁRKA, THE FLESH OF THE NOUS ÁNTHROPOS...
IF EATEN ROUTINELY, SÁRKA LIMITS THE AMOUNT OF EMOTION LOST...
...BUT IT ALSO DEPRESSES THYMIA.
THERE ARE INSTANCES OF PERSONALITY CHANGE WHEN A HEART ONCE CONSTRAINED BY A NOUS BECOMES PROTECTED BY SÁRKA.
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE CHANGE AS MUCH AS HIM.
HE'S CREEPY.
WHO STARTED CALLING HIM THE GOD OF DEATH?
KLANG
HE IS IN NO WAY...
...AS EASILY UNDER-STOOD AS THE GOD OF DEATH.

CLACK
CLACK
WHOo
OH DEAR.
IT APPEARS I AM VERY MUCH DISLIKED.
JIING
SKFF
JIING
JIING
JIING

FWOOF
POOF
THE EMPTY SHOE ♪ CLATTERS AND CLATTERS.
THE EMPTY SHOE ♪ IS FULL OF HOLES.
WOOSH
ITSU-ITSU
...ROUND EYEBALLS COME RAINING DOWN! ♪
HYUU-
GYAA!
AND FROM THE EMPTY SKY...
YUP
SMASH

SNATCH
EMPTY, EMPTY.
IT'S ALL GONE! ♪

YOU KNOW HOW, RIGHT?
GET OUT OF THE WAY.
JIING
JA JIING?
JIING JIING
TOMP
... LIONTARI.
GOOD JOB...
I BET YOU THINK YOU DON'T NEED A BODYGUARD.
JIING?
HMM...
JIING
I GUESS HE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING SO OBVIOUS.
I'M SURE IT'S HIM, BUT HE WASN'T REALLY SERIOUS.
DID ATSÁLI SEND THESE GUYS?
YAY

HE'S FRIGHTENING.
IT'S HARD BEING ALONE WITH HIM...
HE'S LIKE THE COLDEST METAL ON EARTH.
IT WAS A WARNING.
HE THROWS AWAY HIS SUBORDINATES ON A WARNING?
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
HIS GAZE IS SO COLD...
SO, HOW DID IT GO?
YOU'RE SMILING.
I COULD ONLY TELL HIM I WANTED TO USE KARCHARÍAS FOR THE MISSION TO DESTROY FÁLAINA.
THAT SOUNDS AWFUL.
IT'S REALLY ANNOYING AND GIVES YOU SHIVERS.
BUT ATSÁLI... WHEN HE SPEAKS, THERE'S A METALLIC WHEEZING...
IT'S RARE, BUT SOME PEOPLE'S ENUNCIATION SUFFERS AFTER PROLONGED INGESTION OF SÁRKA.
IT'S LIKE A CLANG.

MASTER ORCA...
I'M SORRY I MISSED THE MARK.
ARE YOU ANGRY?
NO.
POP
MEOW ...
THEN PLEASE PET ME.
MEOW ...
PURR PURR...
RUB
RUB
WHAT ...
...ARE YOU DOING?
HA!
HEE HEE...
YOU KNOW ...
I CAN'T GET THERE...
...WITHOUT YOU.

WHY DOES FÁLAINA SEEM SO NOSTALGIC TO ME?
I'VE BEEN THINKING...

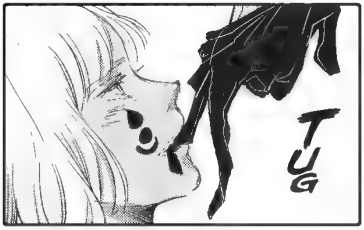
THOSE PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND SEEM LIKE THEY'VE BEEN MY FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME.
I WAS ONLY THERE FOR A SHORT TIME, BUT THE SCENES STILL PLAY CLEARLY INSIDE MY HEAD...

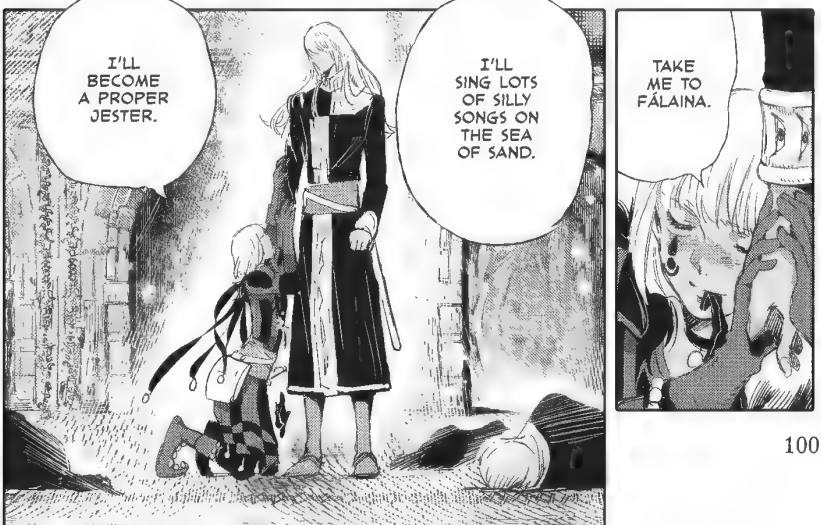
AHH...
I... I WONDER IF I LEFT MYSELF BEHIND ON THAT ISLAND?
I WANT TO WRECK THEM WITH A LOT OF LOVE...
...AND MAYBE THEN...
...I'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M LONGING FOR.
I WANT TO BREAK THEM CAREFULLY, ONE BY ONE.

THE LONGER I'M AWAY FROM IT...
NO, A HEART KEEPS EMPTYING JUST BY LIVING.
HIT ME!
I DON'T MAKE A SOUND NOW.

PLEASE ...
...DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.

I'M LONELY, SO I PUT LOTS OF BELLS ON THESE CLOTHES YOU GAVE ME...
...TO MAKE LOTS OF NOISE.
HEE HEE.
JHNG JHNG
JA JHNG


TUG


I'LL BECOME A PROPER JESTER.
I'LL SING LOTS OF SILLY SONGS ON THE SEA OF SAND.
TAKE ME TO FÁLAINA.

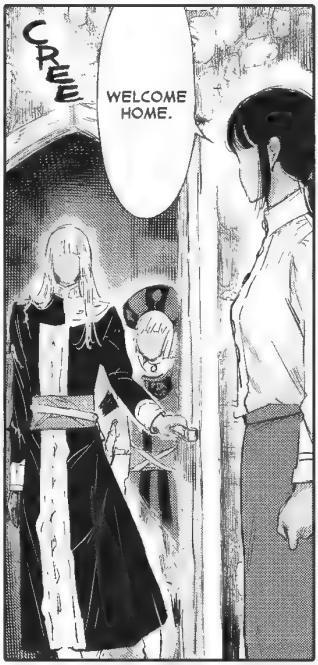
SO GIVE ME SOUND...
PLEASE ...
HEE HEE HEE...
PLEASE.
HA HA...
PLEASE.
AH HA HA HA...

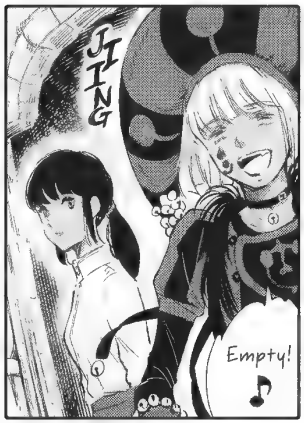
LOOK AT THE MESS YOU'VE MADE.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
HEY...
IT'S BAD!
TING
TING
YEAH, IT'S BAD.
BING
BING
YOUR FOOD IS AWFUL!
YOU'RE MASTER ORCA'S WOMAN, RIGHT?
THEN WHAT ARE YOU?
I'M NOT A HOUSE-KEEPER.
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, I WON'T COOK ANY-MORE.
HMPH!
HE HAS EVEN LESS FEELINGS FOR YOU.
WHY WOULD MY MASTER ORCA BE INTERESTED IN A DOWDY WOMAN LIKE THIS?
YOU'RE WRONG.

I'M SORRY I'M NOT BUBBLY...
...AND I'M NOT HIS LOVER.
IF MASTER ORCA WANTED A LOVER, HE SHOULD HAVE FOUND SOMEONE CURVIER, WITH A BUBBLY PERSONALITY.
... THERE'S SOME-THING MISSING.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE CUTE AT FIRST, BUT...

WHAT-EVER.
YOUR FOOD IS TERRIBLE!
BANG
CRASH
TINC
TINC
SO NOT CUTE!

IT'S NOTHING.
YOU'RE HURT.

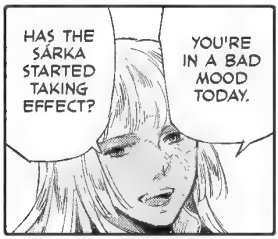

CREE
WELCOME HOME.


JING
Empty!

TING

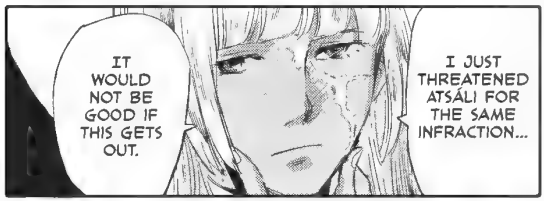
LION-TARI...
IS HE OKAY?
HE SEEMS WEAKER BY THE DAY.
IT MIGHT BE WITH-DRAWAL SYMPTOMS.
HE REALLY MISSES FÁLAINA.

YOU'VE BEEN GIVING ME SÁRKA...
...BUT I'M NOT WITHIN THE THIRD DEGREE OF RELATION, SO...
...IT'S AGAINST THE LAW.


YOU'RE IN A BAD MOOD TODAY.
HAS THE SÁRKA STARTED TAKING EFFECT?

I was just repeatedly told I wasn't cute.

I'LL CLEAN YOUR WOUNDS ...
HURRY UP AND REMOVE YOUR SHIRT.


I JUST THREATENED ATSÁLI FOR THE SAME INFRACTION...
IT WOULD NOT BE GOOD IF THIS GETS OUT.

YES.
I HAVE AN IDEA.

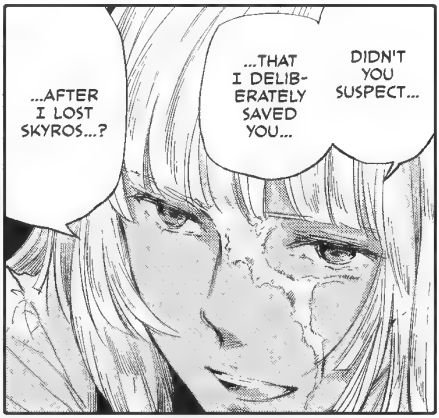
RULES ARE MEANT TO BE BROKEN.
BUT THAT SAID...

...WILL YOU BE MY WIFE?
AFTER I'VE CAPTURED FÁLAINA AND THE DAÍMONAS...
YOU SHOULD BECOME FAMILY.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

...

YOU'RE SAYING YOU HAD FEELINGS FOR ME FROM THE BEGIN-NING?
THAT'S...
...A LIE.


...AFTER I LOST SKYROS...?
...THAT I DELIB-ERATELY SAVED YOU...
DIDN'T YOU SUSPECT...

WE COME FROM SUCH DIFFERENT CLASSES.
I'M SELF-MADE.
BESIDES, I'VE DIRTIED MY HANDS PLENTY TO GET TO WHERE I AM.
THE REASON I DIDN'T TELL YOU HOW I FELT WAS BECAUSE...
...AS LONG AS YOU WERE A DOLL, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SENSE YOUR REAL FEELINGS.
CLATTER
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S STILL ALIVE WITH ALL THOSE SCARS.
THUD
OH!
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO CLEAN THIS?

...
DO YOU DISLIKE ME?

DON'T TEASE ME.
YOUR FACE IS RED.
AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU DON'T HATE ME.

THAT'S YOUR NAME.
?
ITIÁ.

IT MEANS "WILLOW."
THAT'S WHAT I'LL CALL YOU FROM NOW ON.
BUT NAMES ARE...

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE.
BUT IF THE IDEAL WORLD I'M HOPING FOR COMES TO BE...
...THINGS LIKE STATUS, TITLES AND EVEN ALIASES WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY.

IT'S YOUR TEMPORARY NAME UNTIL THEN.
...
IDEAL WORLD?

WHEN I ACQUIRE NOUS FÁLAINA AND THE DAÍMONAS...
...I'LL USE HIS FORBIDDEN POWERS...

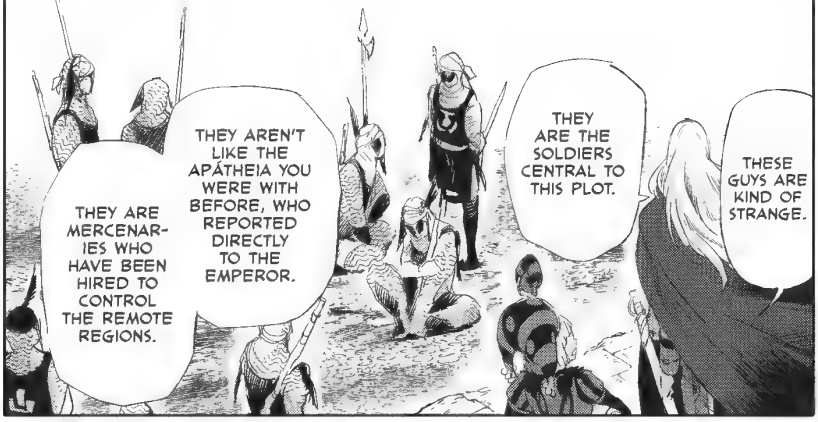
...TO SNATCH NOUS ÁNTHROPOS FROM THE EMPEROR...
...AND CREATE AN IDEAL WORLD, AFTER KATAKLYSMÓS.

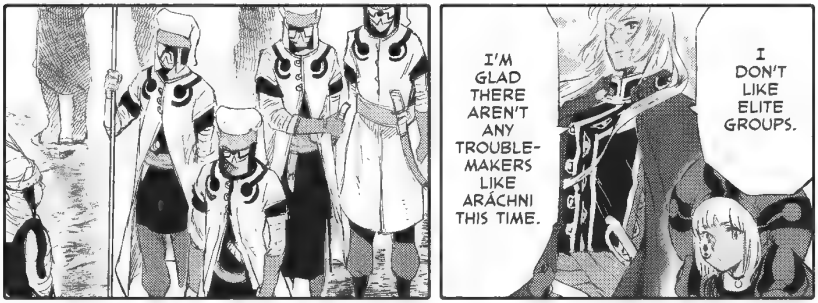
...
YOU'RE *KIDDING*, RIGHT?

TREASON IS THE HIGHEST CRIME...
...AND THEN TO STEAL ÁNTHRO-POS...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
IF THIS PLOT COMES TO LIGHT, I WILL ...
...BE THE MOST TORTURED PERSON ON EARTH BEFORE I DIE.
SO I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE BESIDES YOU.

DID YOU NOT THINK THAT I WOULD BETRAY YOU?
WHY DID YOU TELL ME SOMETHING OF SUCH IMPORT?
WHY ...?
...RIGHT, ITIÁ?
THAT'S WHAT WIVES DO...
YOU HOLD MY FATE IN YOUR HANDS...
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
BUT...
...
I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE IN ME AND FOLLOW ME.
I...
...WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

IN A WORLD WHERE THE NOUSES DON'T OWN YOUR FEELINGS...
...WILL I KNOW THE WHOLE OF YOUR HEART?


THESE GUYS ARE KIND OF STRANGE.
THEY ARE THE SOLDIERS CENTRAL TO THIS PLOT.
THEY AREN'T LIKE THE APÁTHEIA YOU WERE WITH BEFORE, WHO REPORTED DIRECTLY TO THE EMPEROR.
THEY ARE MERCENARIES WHO HAVE BEEN HIRED TO CONTROL THE REMOTE REGIONS.


I DON'T LIKE ELITE GROUPS.
I'M GLAD THERE AREN'T ANY TROUBLE-MAKERS LIKE ARÁCHNI THIS TIME.

YOU'RE BRINGING AN IERÉAS?
WE'LL COME IN CONTACT WITH THE DAÍMONAS. A CHAPLAIN SEEMS WISE.
COMMANDER ORCA, THE SKIÁCHTRO TROOPS ARE ASSEMBLED.
BOOM

CREEK
CREAK
SKIÁCHTRA AND SCARECROW TAMERS...
IT WAS JUST A HOBBY IN THE BEGINNING...
...BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO FIND USE FOR THEM.
EVERYONE, OUR DEPARTURE IS IMMINENT.
OUR MISSION IS TO COMPLETE THE EXECUTION OF THE PRISONERS ON FÁLAINA...
AND ACQUIRE THE NOUS FÁLAINA AND THE DAÍMONAS...
...ALL FOR...

...
IT WILL BE NICE...
...TO SEE YOUR SISTER.
...HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR AND THE EMPIRE!

JIING
JIING
HEH
OH...
I WANT TO...
...HEAR YOUR SOUNDS SOON.

Chapter 32
The Remains
of a Dream

...and become a rainbow of sea fire permeating the sand.
It was as if the stars of the firmament had fallen...
They twinkled as if from an ancient city that never slept.
SHIPS FROM OUR COUNTRY EXPLORE AROUND HERE FROM TIME TO TIME.
WE MAY ENCOUNTER ONE.
IT'S THE SPITHA SHELLS ATTACHED TO THE RUINS.
THE SHELLS GLOW AT NIGHT AND FORM A SHINY CASTLE.

We were due to reach Amonlogia in about a dozen days.
Day 12, month 11, year 93 of the Sand Exile.
The twinkling lights disappeared with the dawn...
...but the melancholy, graceful ruins remained...
...like an old capital past its prime whose people had all departed.
WE'RE ALMOST TO AMONLOGIA.

...
Blood swirled and became a wind-wrought pattern in the Sea of Sand...
...and joined the grasses and trees and insects and birds to become the record of a ballad.
Please find us...
...little travelers who row a ship of mud and use the white sand as pillows...
Imagining a new land is very exciting...
...but if we move there, that means...
...there won't be any more people on the Mud Whale.

Once we leave for Amonlogia...
...will the Mud Whale become a ruin too?
I'm sure...
...it will be...
...the most beautiful ruin on the sands.

HE'S AT THE TOP OF TOWER 5? NO ONE LIVES THERE...
THERE'S NO PATH AND BARELY ANY FOOT-HOLDS...
IT'S JUST A LITTLE FARTHER.
SUOU?
EVER SINCE THEN, OUNI...
...AND THEY FORCED HIM TO TELL THEM ABOUT OUNI.
NEZU WAS ATTACKED BY THE TWINS...
HE WON'T TALK TO ANYONE. HE JUST SITS THERE ALL BY HIMSELF.
SUOU ...?
SHSHSH
IS IT TRUE THAT OUNI WON'T SEE KICHA OR HIS OTHER FRIENDS?
YES.
IT'S HARD TO FIND MY FOOT-ING.
HANG IN THERE, SUOU.

I'VE TRIED MANY TIMES.
KICHA AND JIKI WON'T LET US THROUGH.
THERE ARE MORE OBSTACLES?
THAT'S THE NEXT OBSTACLE.
...
OUNI DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE.
GO HOME!
YOU AGAIN!
STOMP
NO WAY.
...WILL YOU LET US SEE OUNI?
KICHA ...
POMP
OSU
CHA-KURO?
PUSH

DROOP
...
WHY ARE YOU SO DIR...
NO...
NO WAY, GO HOME!
YOU WANT... US...TO GO... BACK...
...DOWN THIS BUMPY PATH?
THEY SAY GOING DOWN IS WORSE THAN GOING UP, DON'T THEY?
SLUMP
CLUTCH
Aaahm...
...
ARGH ...
GEEZ!
NEVER MIND, GO AHEAD.
THANK YOU, KICHA.
WAY TO GO, SUOU.

BUT DON'T MAKE OUNI ANGRY.
AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HURT HIM.
AND, AND...
BRING OUNI BACK!
HE WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO US ANYMORE...
...AND HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE EATING MUCH THESE DAYS.
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S BEING LIKE THAT.
PLEASE ...
...HELP OUNI.

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT KICHA...
I FEEL LIKE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF IT'S JUST YOU BOYS.
CHAKURO, SUOU...
YOU LOOK AFTER KICHA, LYKOS.
OKAY ...
SHUT UP.
DO YOU LIKE OUNI?
HEY...
...KICHA.
PLOP

THE FIRST THING I REMEMBER WAS BEING IN A CORNER OF THE RESIDENTIAL AREA.
I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF BEING LITTLE. I JUST KNOW MY NAME AND AGE.

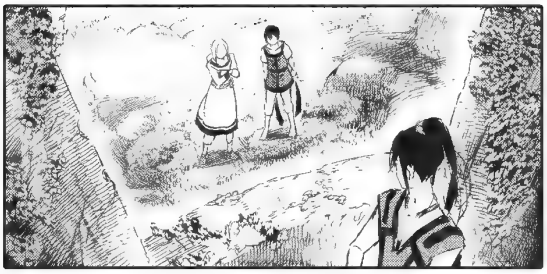
...SO I AVOIDED OTHER PEOPLE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS...
...BUT I HAD NO MEMORIES OF PARENTS...
THE ONLY WAY TO GET ON THIS ISLAND WAS TO BE BORN HERE...

THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT BEING ALONE WAS EASIER...
...NIBI AND THE OTHERS WERE WITH ME.
BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT...
WELL, AT LEAST I THOUGHT SO.
...I COULD FEND OFF THAT MYSTERIOUS FEELING OF TERROR.
...BUT WHEN I WAS WITH THEM...
...TERROR ...
NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
EVEN WHILE I LONGED FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
...EVEN WHILE I KNEW I MIGHT NEVER SEE IT...
...JUST LOOKING AT THE SAME SKY AND THE SAME SEA WITH YOU EVERY DAY...
WHAT I WANTED TO FEND OFF...
... WAS ...
THAT WAS THE BEST.

I LOVE THIS ISLAND TOO...
I LOVE THE MUD WHALE, EVEN IF IT'S UNIMPRESSIVE.
NIBI SAID THAT WHEN WE SAID GOODBYE...
...ON SKYROS.
I... GET IT NOW.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS...
...OR WHETHER I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE BORN HERE...
I WAS TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET AWAY...
...BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT MY VERY EXISTENCE TO BE REFUTED BY THE ISLAND.

I'VE LIKED OUNI...
...FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
BUT ...
...OUNI HAS A WALL...
A WALL THAT SAYS, "DON'T COME ANY CLOSER."
NIBI AND EVERYONE KNEW THAT.
EVERY-ONE HAS A WALL.
EVER SINCE I GOT MY FEEL-INGS BACK...
...I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO GET LOST IN THE COM-PLICATED MAZE OF EMOTIONS.
OUNI HAS A REALLY HIGH WALL WITH NO END.
NO ONE CAN TAKE IT DOWN.
IF OUNI'S WALL COMES DOWN...
...WOULD HE LIKE YOU BACK?
...
IT'S OKAY, I DON'T MIND IF IT'S ONE-SIDED.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO...
WHAT DO I DO IF I LIKE A BOY?
...
THE ARCHI-VIST?
IT'S A SECRET.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT DO YOU DO?
IT'S SIMPLE.
JUST BE WITH HIM.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE ALL HAVE TO GO TO AMONLOGIA TOGETHER, NO MATTER WHAT.
YEAH.



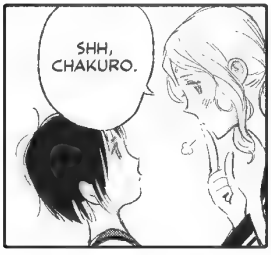
OUNI...!

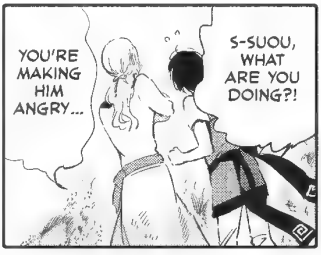
I TOLD KICHA NOT TO LET ANYONE THROUGH.

...

DO YOU THINK THAT BY ISOLATING YOURSELF, YOU'RE SPARING THEM TROUBLE?
YOU'RE WORRYING THE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU.

YOU'RE VERY ARBITRARY ...
YOU LEAN ON YOUR FRIENDS WHEN YOU NEED THEM...
...AND YOU STILL THINK YOU'RE ALONE?


SHH, CHAKURO.


S-SUOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'RE MAKING HIM ANGRY...

I'M PROVOKING HIM ON PURPOSE.
BANG
HE WON'T MOVE IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING DRASTIC.
QUIT SULKING AND COME DOWN!
OR I'LL BRING YOU DOWN MYSELF.
WAIT, YOU'RE GOING TO CLIMB THIS?!
IT'S PRETTY SHEER.
DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT THIS.
YOU'RE BEING SO MANLY, SUOU.
...
I'M VERY GOOD AT CLIMBING WALLS, SO I'LL HELP YOU.
SUOU, PUT YOUR HAND HERE.
OUN!!
WHAT DID THE TWINS SAY TO YOU?
THEY USED A DIRTY TRICK TO GET NEZU...
...

"YOU'RE A MONSTER."
"YOU'RE A DAÍMONAS, SO YOU'RE CURSED."
"YOUR POWERS WILL GO BERSERK."
"THEY'LL BE LIKE WEAPONS ..."
"...AND YOU'RE DESTINED TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF THE ISLANDERS."
YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER.
OUNI, YOU HELPED US, AND NOW YOU'RE ONE OF US.
OKAY, UP HERE NEXT ...
PUT YOUR FOOT HERE.
YOU FARM EVERY DAY, SUOU, SO YOU SHOULD BE STRONG.
YES.

YOU WERE INVESTIGATING ME TO SEE IF YOU WANTED ME IN THE NEW LAND...
THAT'S A LIE.
WHY HAVE YOU SHUT YOURSELF AWAY?
WE AREN'T PLANNING TO EXCLUDE YOU.
IF YOU KNOW THAT, THEN WHY?!
THAT'S WHAT SHIKON AND SHIKOKU SAID.
I KNOW.
THEN WHY?
OUNI...
...SHALL I GUESS WHY YOU'RE LIVING ALONE?
YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE.
YOU LOST CONTROL OF YOUR THYMIA ONCE ALREADY ...
...AND YOU HURT KICHA AND THE OTHERS.

IF YOU'RE ALONE, NO ONE WILL BE HURT, RIGHT?
IF I'M CORRECT, SAY IT.
...
THE BURDEN YOU CARRY WILL BECOME LIGHTER...
...IF YOU SAY IT OUT LOUD.
PLEASE, OUNI...
...TELL US HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.
...
OUNI.
OH!
YOU'RE SURPRISED?
POP
YOU MADE IT UP.

YOU'RE BOTH-ERING ME.
GO HOME.
HYU
DON'T COME NEAR ME!!
OH!
!!
CRASH
CRASH

KO
OSH
OWWW.

WE DON'T CARE WHAT YOU ARE.
OUNI...
RUSTLE
SIGH...

WE'RE GOING TO STICK BY YOU, NO MATTER WHAT.
WE'RE WITH YOU, OKAY?
...
I...
...DON'T CARE ANYMORE...
...IF I'M A DAIMONAS.
NOT NOW THAT I KNOW THAT MY MERE EXISTENCE...
...MY POWER ...
...WILL HURT THEIR NEW WORLD.

I'M SURE I'LL DESTROY WHAT THEY'VE BUILT UP.
AND IF I LIKE PEOPLE OR A PLACE...
...THAT TERROR WILL START AGAIN.
I CAN'T GO TO THE NEW WORLD WITH ALL OF THEM.
I LIKE YOU...
WHEN EVERYONE LEAVES...
...WE'LL TRAVEL, JUST THE TWO OF US.
MUD WHALE.

AND EVERY YEAR ON THE DAY THE SAND RETURNS...
...WE'LL WELCOME NIBI, BUKI AND AIJIRO.
NO ONE WILL BE LEFT TO RETURN ME TO THE SAND...
...SO IN THE END...
...I HOPE YOU'LL MARK MY GRAVE.

FWIP
HUMPH.
I'M GOING TO FEED MASOH.
HUH?
GINSHU, WHAT IS THAT?
THANK YOU.
GINSHU, I'LL HELP YOU.
BUT ...
HE CAN'T EAT ALL THAT.
Masoh has become very weak in the last few days.
And recently he's been mostly confined to his bed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
ARE YOU FIGHTING?

After Nezu was attacked by the twins...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHY DID YOU TELL THE TWINS ABOUT OUNI?

...
B-BECAUSE YOU...
?
HE HAD NO CHOICE, RO. THEY BEAT HIM UP.
I KNOW...
I'M GLAD HE WASN'T SERI-OUSLY HURT.

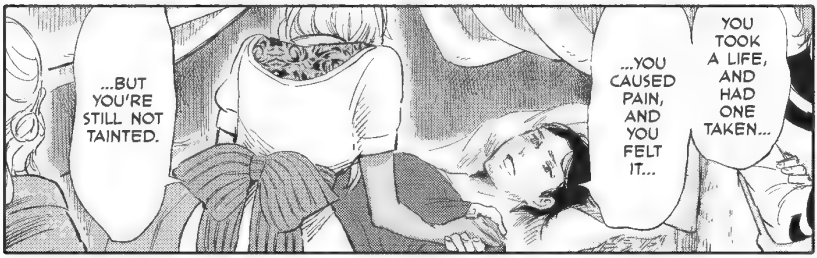
...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
DID YOU THINK YOUR INVENTIONS WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUNI?
BUT WHY DID YOU GIVE UP SO EASILY?
...
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR.
IDIOT !!
Y–
YOU'RE MORE APÄTHEIA THAN THE APÄTHEIA.
BE...
It's been like this ever since.
...UP.
I... WANT... YOU TO MAKE...
BEFORE WE LAND IN AMONLOGIA ...

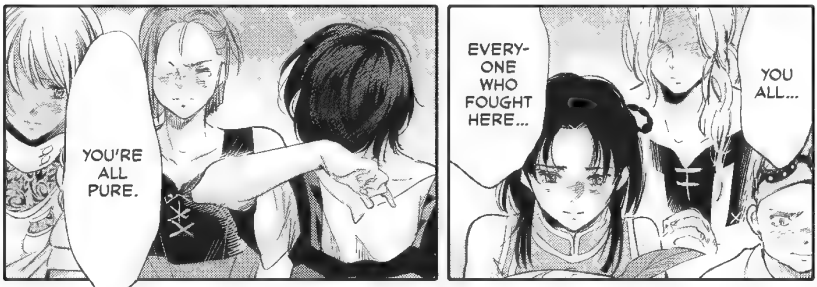
MASOH ...?
...
MASOH.
IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN MY MOM AND DAD...
THEY GRADUALLY LOSE CONSCIOUS-NESS...
...AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN-
?
LY...
... LYKOS...
GASP
YOU'VE JUST GOTTEN USED TO BEING ON THIS ISLAND...
...AND... YOU NEED... TO MOVE...
...BUT...

...IS YOUR PLACE.
WHER-EVER THEY ARE...
...IS PEOPLE.
PLACE...
YOU KNOW... A LOT OF THINGS... HAPPENED.
OKAY ...
MY BRAIN CAN'T KEEP UP WHEN I TRY AND REMEMBER.
...EACH ONE WAS DIFFER-ENT.
EVEN WHEN I THOUGHT EVERY DAY WAS JUST A REPEAT OF THE ONE BEFORE...
DON'T BE... STUPID.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR BRAIN IS THE ONLY MUSCLE YOU DON'T WORK OUT.

LYKOS CAME...
...AND WE FOUND OUT WE WERE THE DESCENDANTS OF CRIMINALS...
WE FOUGHT ...
YOU'VE NEVER FELT SUCH FEAR...
...OR SADNESS BEFORE, RIGHT?
WHY WAS IT NECESSARY ...
...FOR YOU TO HURT PEOPLE?
BUT...
...YOU'RE NOT TAINTED.
THIS HAND...

LYKOS, OUNI, EVERYONE...


YOU TOOK A LIFE, AND HAD ONE TAKEN...
...YOU CAUSED PAIN, AND YOU FELT IT...
...BUT YOU'RE STILL NOT TAINTED.


YOU ALL...
EVERY-ONE WHO FOUGHT HERE...
YOU'RE ALL PURE.

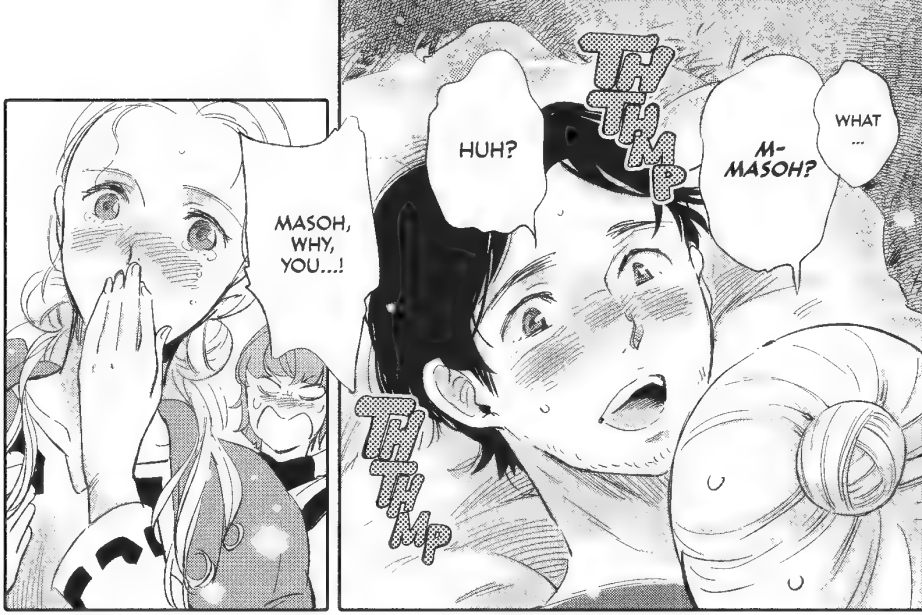
THE BLOOD-SOAKED BITS...
...I'LL TAKE THEM ALL WITH ME...
...TO THE SEA OF SAND.

SO YOU CAN PROUDLY LIVE ANYWHERE...
...UNTAINTED BY ALL THIS.

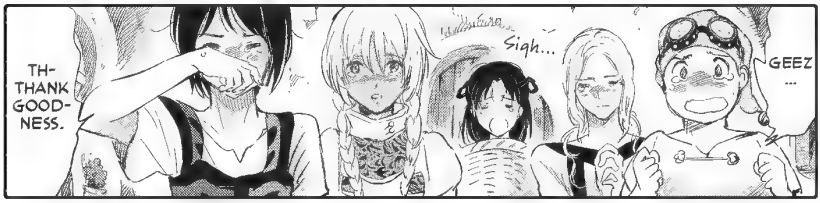
YOU'RE GOING TO AMONLOGIA TOO!
YOU'RE GOING.
DON'T BE STUPID.
KLATER

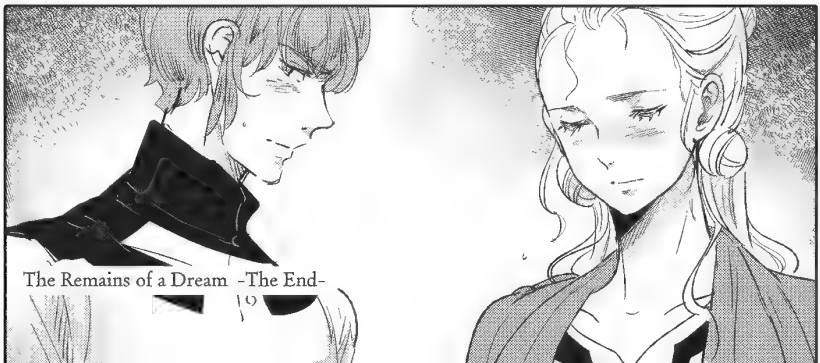
JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER ...
AS SOON AS WE GET TO THE NEW LAND ...
THE ISLAND WON'T TAKE YOUR LIFE.
HANG IN THERE, MASOH.
LET ME...
...REST A LITTLE BIT.
NO, MASOH.
MASOH?!
MASOH?
OH NO, HE'S NOT COMING BACK.
MASOH, EAT THIS.
MASOH.
MASOH!!

...A SMOOCH.
SH-SHINONO ...
...GIVE MASOH ...
THAT'S IT!
...
IF YOU DON'T, THEN MASOH...THEN HE MIGHT... MASOH...
HE'LL BE SO SURPRISED HE MIGHT COME TO AGAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT, QUICKLY!
NOW?
WHAT?
HURRY!


TH
TH
MP
WHAT ...
M-MASOH?
HUH?
TH
TH
MP
MASOH, WHY, YOU...!

MASOH!
YOU WERE ABOUT TO TURN SHINONO INTO A SPECTACLE?!
...
SHOOT, I WAS SO CLOSE.

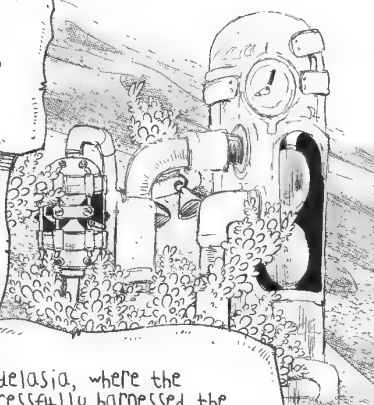

GEEZ ...
Sigh...
TH-THANK GOOD-NESS.


The Remains of a Dream -The End-

Sketch 9

Sailing on the Sea of Sand

On the Sea of Sand, people and things get swallowed up by the sand swells and sink, so you need some way to traverse it.

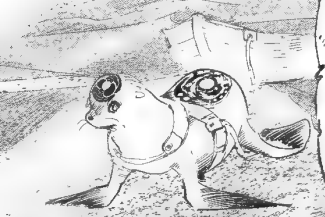


On the Mud Whale, the small boats are propelled by the thymia of the Marked. The Mud Whale gained the ability to move freely when the rudder Kokalo was added to the power of the Nous Fálaina.

The United Kingdom of Suidelasia, where the Mud Whale is headed, successfully harnessed the buoyant energy of the rare fossils, apolithomata, found in the Sea of Sand.

Apolithomata have properties that make them float on the sea, so some people have even constructed ships of the material.

There is some evidence that certain people train fish and sea monsters that are suited to life in the Sea of Sand to pull their ships.



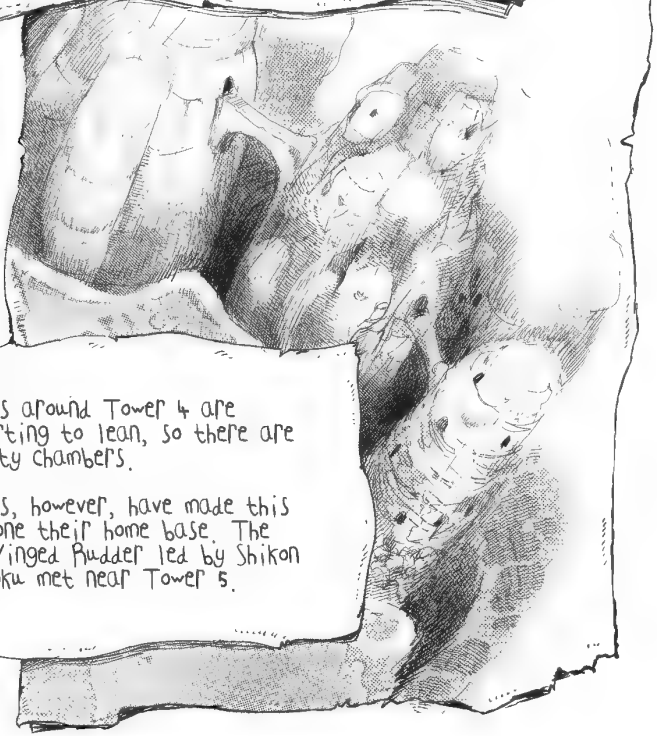
These methods are still a mystery to the citizens of the Mud Whale, who have just begun their journey on the Sea of Sand.

Sketch 10

Dangerous sectors of the Mud Whale

The mud buildings on the island are fragile. In particular, Tower 4 and Tower 5 towards the stern have begun to lean with the passage of time.

For this reason, no one lives in these two towers or visits very often.



The dorms around Tower 4 are also starting to lean, so there are many empty chambers.

The Moles, however, have made this danger zone their home base. The Purple-Winged Rudder led by Shikon and Shikoku met near Tower 5.

Chapter 33
Like Our Warrior

KLAK
KLAK
THANK YOU, SHUAN.
KLAK
WOOO
KLATER
WSH
TMP
TMP

GRIN
CHAKURO, DID YOU HEAR THAT THE COMMANDER IS GOING TO QUIT THE VIGILANTE CORPS?
WHAT?
HE BROUGHT IT UP WITH THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS HIMSELF.
BUT WHY?
HE'S AROUND 26, YOU KNOW.
HIS THYMIA ...
...IS GOING DOWNHILL?
COM-MANDER ...
...SIR!!

THE WIND IS STRONG.
THE SAND IS BITING.
COM-MANDER ...
YOU CAN'T DO IT...
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR ME IF YOU LEAVE THE VIGILANTE CORPS.
HEY ...
DID YOU HEAR ME?
WHY IS IT BAD FOR YOU, GINSHU?
THAT'S IT?
WHAT A PERSON IS CALLED IS VERY IMPORTANT.
BECAUSE ...
IF YOU AREN'T THE COMMANDER ANYMORE...
...WHAT DO I CALL YOU, COM-MAND-ER?
HMM, I WONDER?
IS YOUR THYMIA REALLY GOING?
WHY ARE YOU QUITTING, COM-MANDER?
WHY DID YOU ASK FOR MY NAME?!
SHUAN.
OH NO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN, COM-MANDER?
OH, SHUAN.

THE VIGILANTES, I MEAN...
...I EXIST TO PROTECT THE MUD WHALE.
WHEN EVERYONE MOVES TO AMONLOGIA, THERE WON'T BE A MUD WHALE TO PROTECT ANY-MORE.
THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY NEED FOR ME...
IT'LL BE BYE-BYE, SHUAN.
OH YES...
THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS WANTS ME TO CHOOSE A NEW COMMANDER.
THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE VIGILANTE CORP IS...
SHMM
SHMM
SHMM
SHMM
OKAY.
I KNOW! ♪
SHM

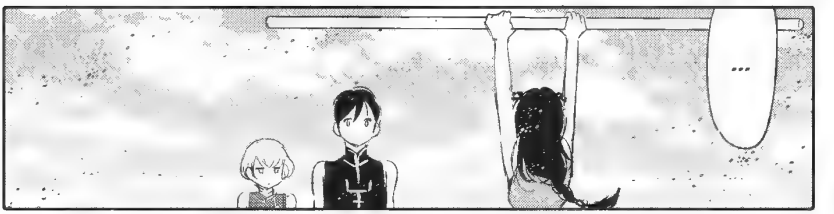
NO...
HEY, IT'S YOUR FAVORITE, CHAKKI'S TEAM.
IT'S YOUR TURN TO PROTECT THE HUNTERS.

GINSHU!

YOU CAN CALL ME THAT FROM NOW ON!
IT'S "MISS COMMANDER GINSHU"!!

HUH?
IT'S NOT "GINSHU."

FROM NOW ON...
THE COMMANDER SAID "COMMANDER" WAS FINE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


...

WHAAAAT ?!

...ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE THE SHIP?
MOTHER ...

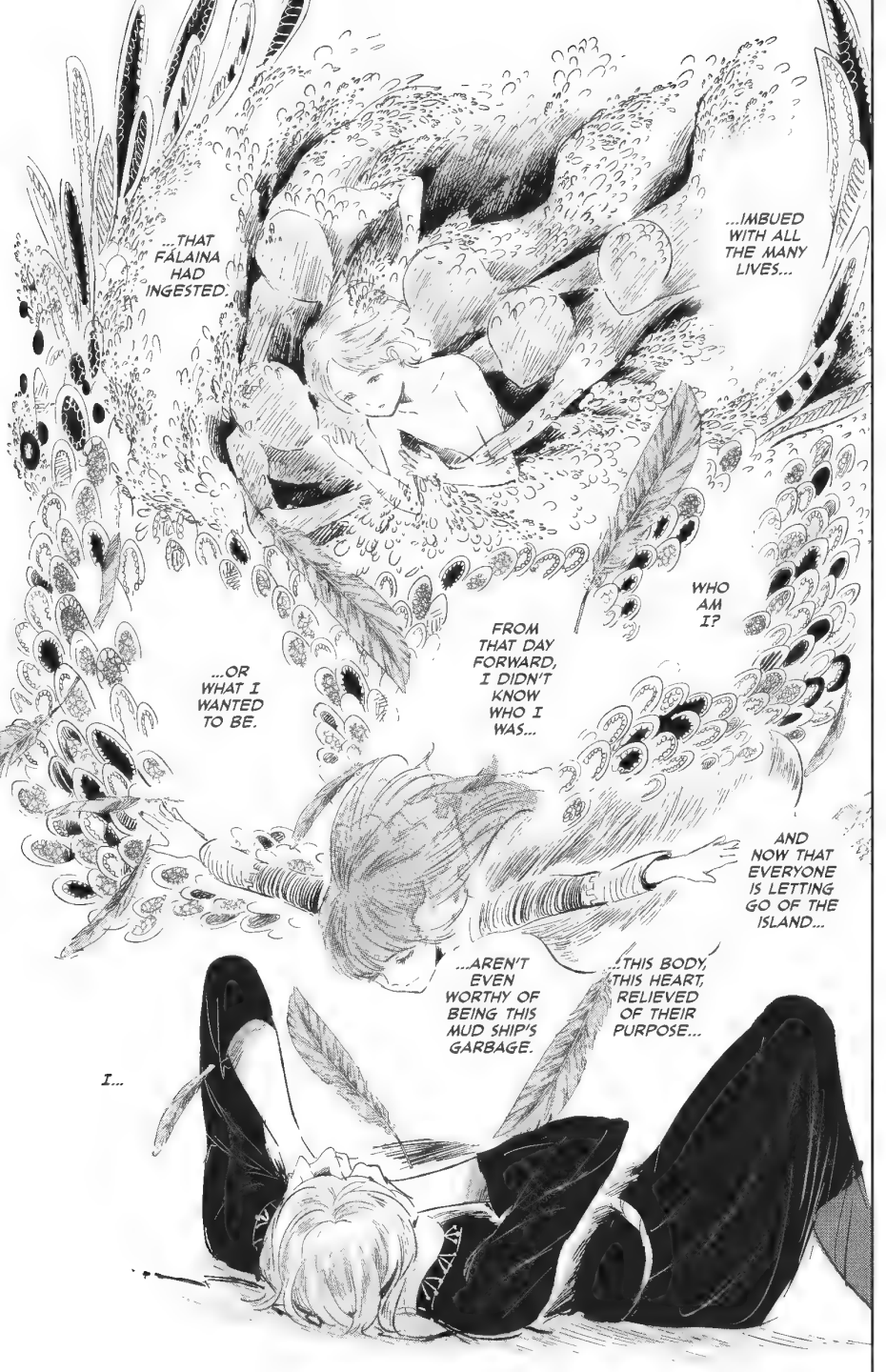
WILL MY BODY BE ABLE TO TAKE IT?
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE.

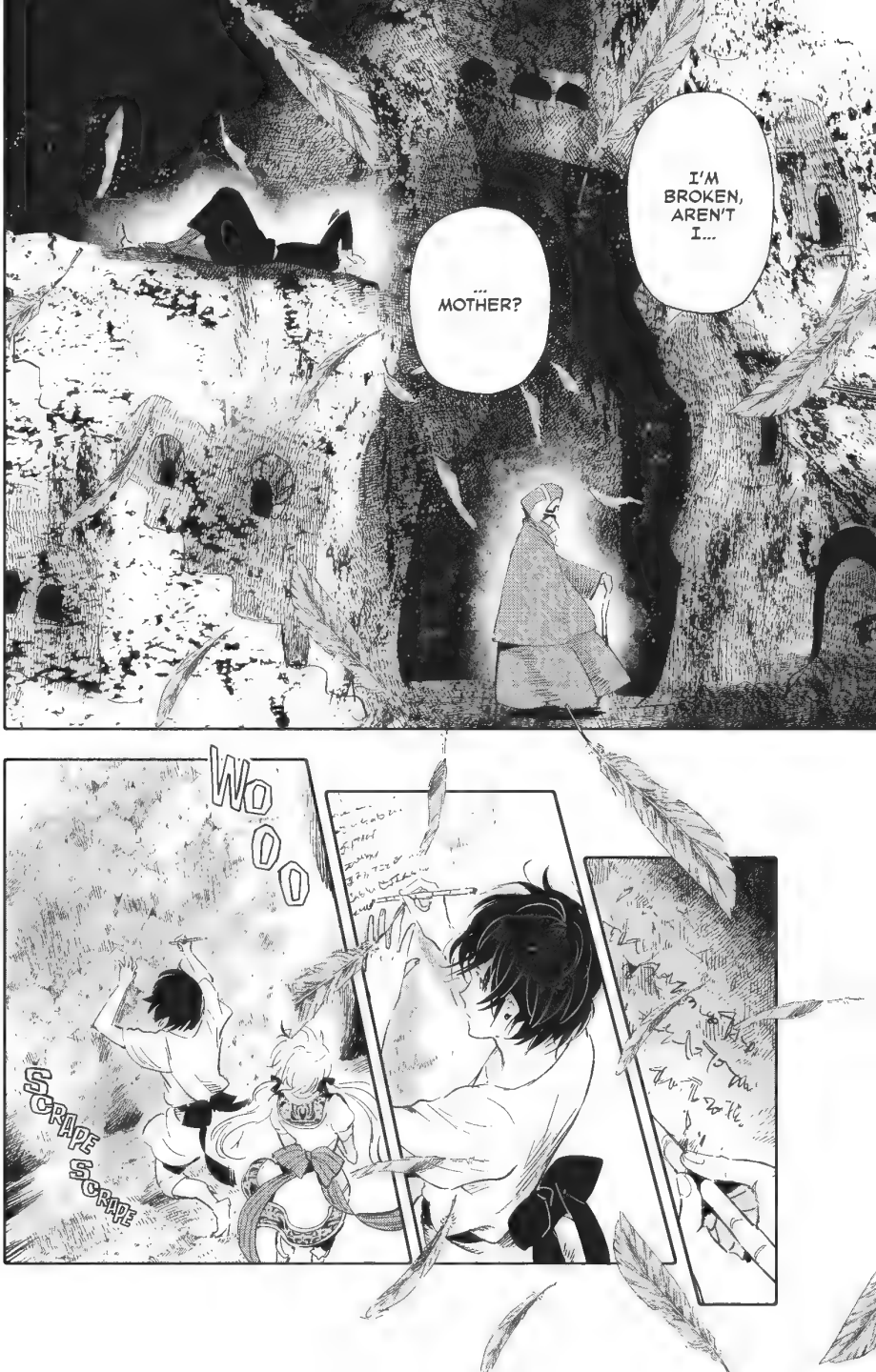
WHEN WE STOP LIVING ON THE SAND....
...WILL WE STOP BEING SO COVERED IN IT?

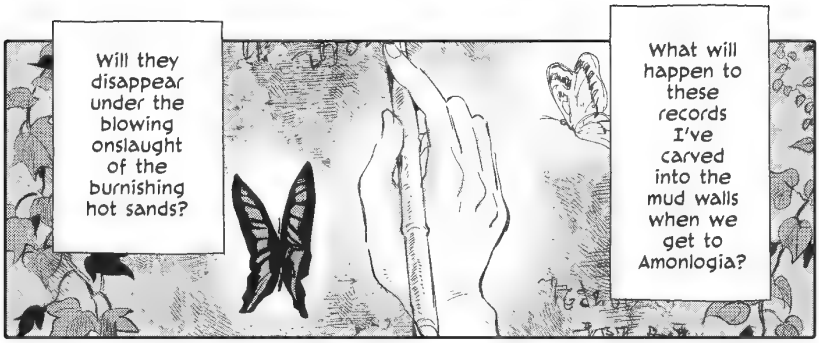
I HAVE A QUIZ FOR YOU, MOTHER...
WHAT AM I?
AN ALMOST-DAÍMONAS?
...
A FAILED EXPERI-MENT?
THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS WAS NICE TO ME UNTIL THE VERY END...
...EVEN THOUGH I WAS INCOM-PLETE.
THEY EXPERIMENTED WITH TURNING A CHILD INTO A DAÍMONAS.
WHY DID YOU ALLOW IT, MOTHER?
WAS IT BECAUSE I WAS YOUR PRECIOUS LATE-LIFE CHILD?
WERE YOU SAD THAT YOUR SON WAS BORN A SHORT-LIVED MARKED?
DID YOU THINK THAT HE WOULD HAVE A LONG LIFE...
...IF HE TURNED INTO A DAÍMONAS AND SUCKED AWAY EVERY-ONE ELSE'S LIVES?
DID THAT CHILD WISH FOR THAT?

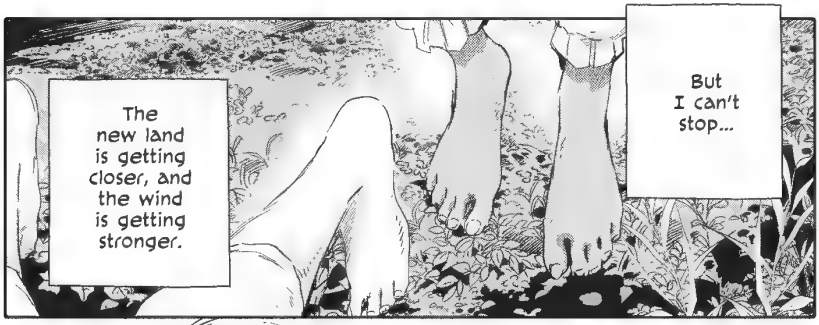
WHAT WE DID WAS TABOO.
YOU BECOMING TWISTED...
...AFTER WE REJECTED YOU WAS INEVITABLE.
It went well.
But even so, you and that boy...
...protected this island and its prisoners...
...from the threat of your mother-land.
You and that boy had meaning.

...DID YOU HEAR THAT VOICE?
MOTHER...
I'M HEARING THINGS.
IS IT MY WIFE'S VOICE?
SIENNA?
REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE, OKAY?
I WAS NINE YEARS OLD.
SIENNA...
YOU ARE YOU.
...DON'T SHOW ME...
...I WAS...
THAT'S WHEN...
...MOTHER...


...THAT FÁLAINA HAD INGESTED...
...IMBUED WITH ALL THE MANY LIVES...
WHO AM I?
FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, I DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS...
...OR WHAT I WANTED TO BE.
AND NOW THAT EVERYONE IS LETTING GO OF THE ISLAND...
...THIS BODY, THIS HEART, RELIEVED OF THEIR PURPOSE...
...AREN'T EVEN WORTHY OF BEING THIS MUD SHIP'S GARBAGE.
I...


I'M BROKEN, AREN'T I...
... MOTHER?
WOOO
SCRAPE SCRAPE


Will they disappear under the blowing onslaught of the burnishing hot sands?
What will happen to these records I've carved into the mud walls when we get to Amoniogia?

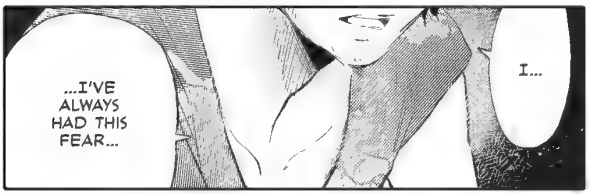

The new land is getting closer, and the wind is getting stronger.
But I can't stop...

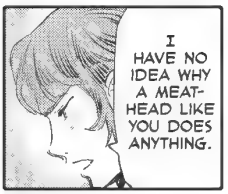
IT'S A FUNNY THING, CHAKURO.
I'D LIKE TO COME BACK HERE ONE DAY, EVEN THOUGH I'M CHOOSING TO LEAVE NOW.
...
I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR A FEW MONTHS...
...BUT THE MUD WHALE FEELS LIKE MY HOME.

I'VE FELT EMPTY FOR A LONG TIME...
...BUT NOW I'M FULL OF MEMORIES.
IT ALMOST HURTS.
LYKOS ...
That's it...
I've been writing all this time...
...because I'm full of memories.
OH.

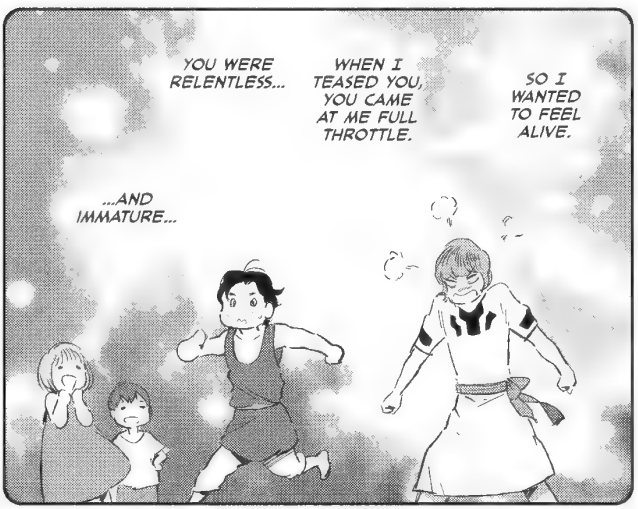
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
MASOH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOT THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
DAWN WILL BREAK SOON.
WAIT ...
... IS IT...
...OKAY FOR YOU TO BE UP?
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
YOU WON'T SEE TOO MANY MORE SUNRISES FROM THE MUD WHALE...
...SO MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A LAST LOOK.
...
SHUT UP, BRAINIAC!
HEY, MEAT-HEAD...
...HAVE A THOUGHT FOR YOUR CONDI-TION, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

HEY, KUCHIBA ...
DO YOU...
...KNOW WHY...
...I MESSED WITH YOU AND PUSHED YOUR BUTTONS ALL THE TIME?


I...
...I'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS FEAR...


I HAVE NO IDEA WHY A MEAT-HEAD LIKE YOU DOES ANYTHING.

WILL EVERYTHING BECOME NOTHING?
EVERY YEAR WE SEND SOMEONE INTO THE SAND, AND WHEN I SEE THAT, I CAN'T HANDLE IT.
EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I COULDN'T HANDLE THAT.
THAT MOMENT WHEN THEY DISAPPEAR INTO THE SAND...


YOU WERE RELENTLESS...
WHEN I TEASED YOU, YOU CAME AT ME FULL THROTTLE.
SO I WANTED TO FEEL ALIVE.
...AND IMMATURE...

AM I GOING TO LOSE MEANING?

BUT BECAUSE OF THAT...
...I COULD SEE MYSELF, LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR.
IT MADE ME FEEL CONFIDENT THAT MY LIFE DID HAVE MEANING.

YEAH... WELL, IT MIGHT JUST HAVE BEEN FOR FUN.
ME TOO.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO DEEP...
IT'S CREEPY.

I'LL SEE YOU.

WE'LL TALK OUTSIDE, SO GO BACK TO SLEEP.
OH, SORRY I WOKE YOU, KIKUJIN.
IS SOME-ONE THERE?
DAD...
MASOH ...
LET'S GO WATCH THE SUNRISE...
BANG
KA CHAK

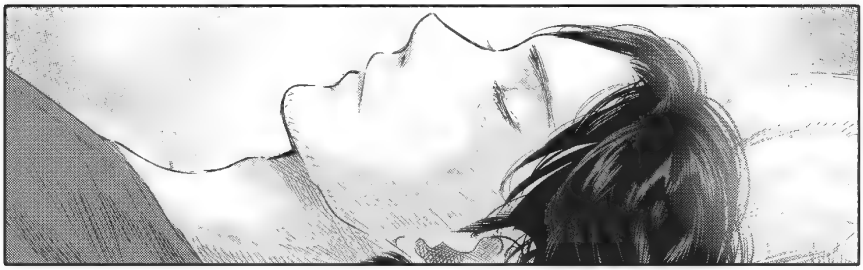
MASOH ...
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AWAKE IN DAYS.
I'M SO GLAD...

WHAT?
I WAS AT OLD MAN KUCHIBA'S.
I'VE TAKEN UP...
...SO MUCH...
...OF HIS TIME AND YOURS.
STARTING TODAY...
...JUST FORGET ABOUT ME.
SHINONO ...
I WANT TO SPARE YOU THE GRIEF OF SENDING ME OFF.

WELL, I SAY NO.
YOU'RE GOING TO SAY YOU'LL TAKE IT ALL WITH YOU, AREN'T YOU?
NO!
EVERY-THING THAT MAKES YOU SAD ON THIS ISLAND...
YOU ARE TOO.
DIFFICULT MOMENTS, SAD MOMENTS— THEY'RE ALL PRECIOUS TO ME.
GIVE THEM TO ME, OKAY?
SO DON'T TAKE THEM AWAY.

DASH
DASH
ZAHH.
ZAHH.

MASOH
...



YES,
HE
DID.

HE SAID
HE WENT
TO SEE
YOU, ONE
LAST
TIME.

...
GOOD RIDDANCE TO THAT OVER-BEARING...
...MEAT-HEAD.
YOUR EYES ARE RED.

The hot sand that blows between the waves.
The star he has lit burns brightly in the heavens.
The dawn light that brightens the sand.
Our warrior has ascended.

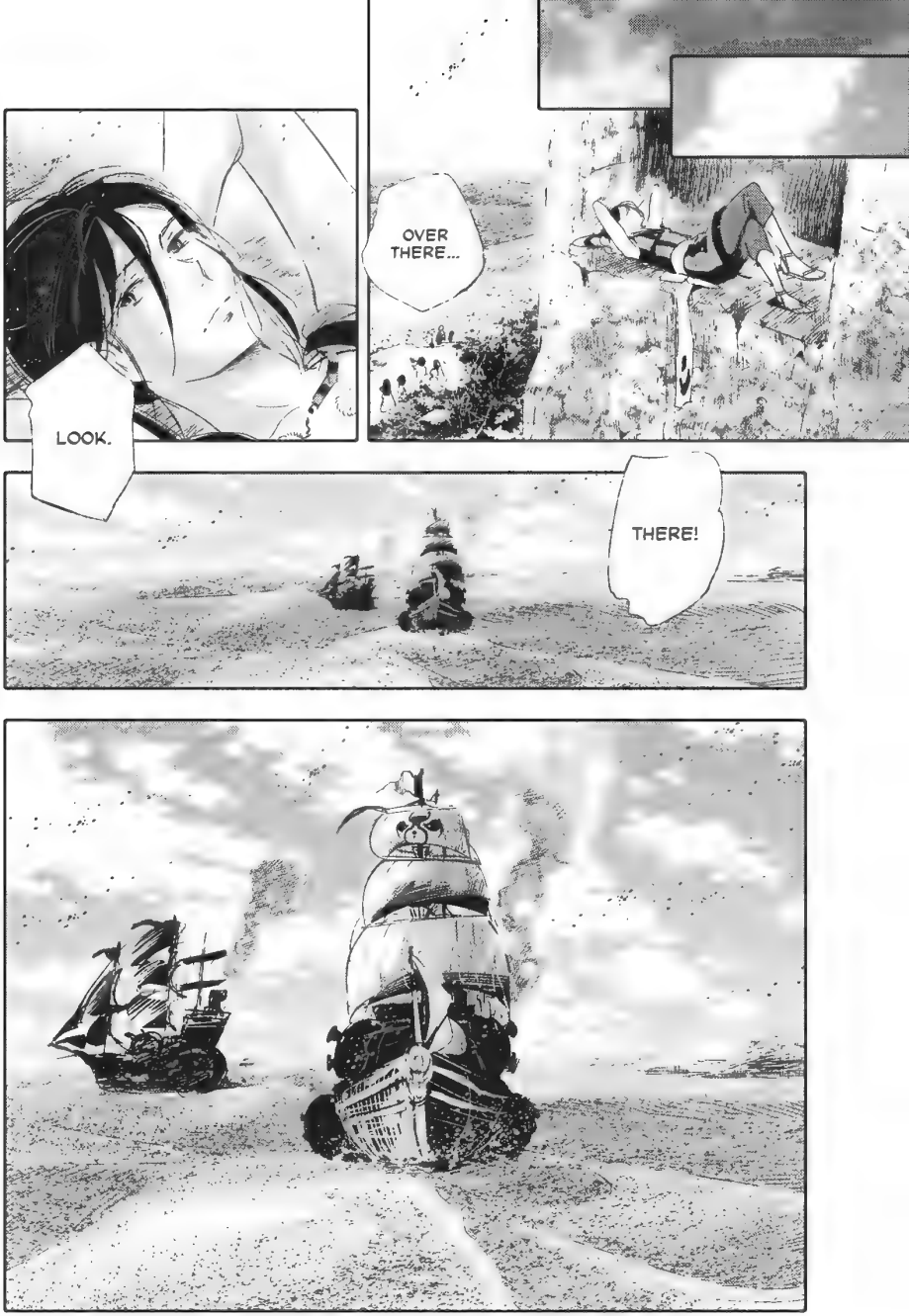
The hallowed warrior departs with the pain of blame deep in his chest.
We will collect his soul when we return to the abandoned garden of paradise.
Our heart is sorrow. Our bodies are sin.
Boil, hot sand, our hearts will burn forever.
Run, hot sand, our bodies will always rise.
We will become the eyes and feet of the warrior...
...and we will travel together for eternity.
CLENCH

We will push through paths unknown.
We will not accept the void of this world.
Dye us the color of the sun.
...like our warrior.
KU SH
Hot sand, stream up with us...
...our warrior.
Like...
I WANTED TO SHOW AMONLOGIA TO MASOH.
I WANTED TO LIVE IN OUR NEW HOME WITH MASOH.
MAYOR SUOU ...

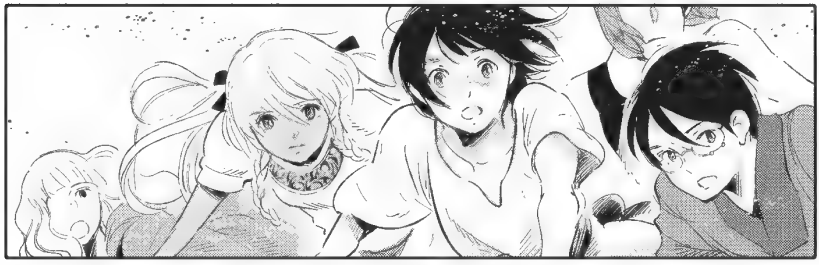
YOU'LL BE THE LAST WE LOSE.
... THROUGH ALL YOUR EYES.
HE WILL SEE IT...
YOU'LL BE THE LAST TO DIE OF IT.
THE CURSE OF OUR PUNISHMENT, THE SHORT LIVES...
CRY TODAY.
NEVER MIND THAT.
I'M NOT CRYING TODAY.
...LIKE MASOH.
I'M GOING TO ACT MANLY...

I'M BRINGING YOU WITH ME...
DASH
MASOH, SAMI, EVERYBODY!
SO WHEN YOU COME BACK TO THE MUD WHALE ON THE DAY THE SAND RETURNS...
...DON'T WORRY IF NO ONE IS HERE.
THANK YOU, MASOH.

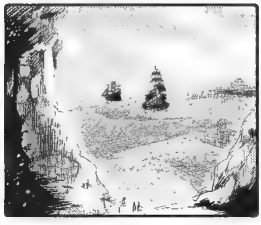
WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN...
...ON THE SEA OF SAND.
Masoh's funeral was held the day before we arrived in Amonlogia.


OVER THERE...
LOOK.
THERE!

I CAN SEE THE FLAG!
IT'S A SHIP FROM AMONLOGIA!



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE'RE ABOUT TO MAKE LAND-FALL.



WASN'T THE PURPLE-WINGED RUDDER GOING TO SEIZE THE ISLAND'S RUDDER?

ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEAVE CAN GET OFF.
THIS IS FINE.
...
...
WHAT IF EVERYONE GETS OFF?
THEN THE ISLAND IS OURS.
ISN'T OUNI GOING TO...
WE'LL MAKE SURE NO ONE WANTS TO FOLLOW THE MAYOR.
WE WON'T LET THEM.
HEE HEE
HEHHEH
WE'VE ALREADY GOT A PLAN.

HE'S NOT A MONSTER ANYMORE.
JUST AN EMPTY SHELL.
ZSSSSH
ISN'T THAT DEÍKTIS'S SHIP?
MY BROTHER?
IT APPEARS TO BE COMING AROUND.
...

WHAT A HUGE SHIP...
PERHAPS IT'S A BATTLE-SHIP FROM *THAT* COUNTRY?
WELL THEN...
...THAT MAKES THEM AN ENEMY.
LET'S MAKE SURE WE GIVE THEM A FLASHY WELCOME.

A Note on Names

Those who live on the Mud Whale are named after colors in a language unknown. Abi Umeda uses Japanese translations of the names, which we have maintained. Here is a list of the English equivalents for the curious.

Aijiro	pale blue
Benihi	scarlet
Buki	kerria flower (*yamabuki*)
Byakuroku	malachite mineral pigments, pale green tinged with white
Chakuro	blackish brown (*cha* = brown, *kuro* = black)
Ginshu	vermillion
Hakuji	porcelain white
Jiki	golden
Kicha	yellowish brown
Kikujin	koji mold, yellowish green
Kogare	burnt muskwood, dark reddish brown
Kuchiba	decayed-leaf brown
Masoh	cinnabar
Miru	seaweed green
Neri	silk white
Nezu	mouse gray
Nibi	dark gray
Ouni	safflower red
Rasha	darkest blue, nearly black
Ro	lacquer black
Sami	light green (*asa* = light, *midori* = green)
Shikoku	purple-tinged black
Shikon	purple-tinged navy

Shinono	the color of dawn (*shinonome*)
Shuan	dark bloodred
Sienna	reddish brown
Sumi	ink black
Suou	raspberry red
Taisha	red ocher
Tobi	reddish brown like a kite's feather
Tokusa	scouring rush green
Urumi	muddy gray

Children of the Whales is now a live-action stage play. The characters have become more alive with the performance of each actor.

—Abi Umeda

ABI UMEDA debuted as a manga creator with the one-shot "Yukokugendan" in *Weekly Shonen Champion*. *Children of the Whales* is her eighth manga work.

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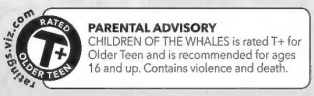
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